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EDITORIAL NOTE

As per provisions of Article 87(1) of the Constitution of India, the President may address both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first Session after each General Elections to the Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first session of each year and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons. The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies, which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues.

On 25 February 2005, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the first Session of Parliament in 2005. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address by the President.

In India, all the three organs of the State–the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary–are the creation of the Constitution. They derive their powers from the Constitution and are expected to function in conformity with the norms set up by it. The powers, jurisdiction and responsibilities of each organ and its relationship with the other two have been clearly demarcated by the Constitution in purpose, intent and areas of activities, hardly leaving any scope for doubt or confusion. If there is any doubt, there is always the spirit of the Constitution which clearly envisages a harmonious relationship among the organs of the State.

The interim order passed by the Supreme Court in the Jharkhand Case in March 2005 brought into sharp focus the debate on the relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary and the concept of Separation of Powers. The issue involved was the powers of the Judiciary *vis-a-vis* the powers and privileges of the Legislature, the Speaker and the members of the Legislature. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee called an Emergency Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India on, "The Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary" at New Delhi on 20 March 2005, to discuss implications of the interim order of the Supreme Court. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address delivered by Shri Somnath Chatterjee on that occasion.

Over the decades, we have had a galaxy of eminent parliamentarians who have contributed substantially towards making the parliamentary system more relevant and meaningful to our country. It is in recognition

of their contributions and also in the best traditions of parliamentary democracy that the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) instituted the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award to honour such outstanding parliamentarians in 1995. The Award is conferred on parliamentarians of great eminence for their long-standing contribution towards strengthening the Parliament and the parliamentary edifice. The Award, in a way, also acknowledges the pre-eminence of democracy as a way of life in our country which should be preserved and protected. It was in keeping with this tradition that the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam gave away the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards to Sarvashri Lal Krishna Advani, Arjun Singh, Jaswant Singh and Dr. Manmohan Singh for the year 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively at a function held on 21 March 2005 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Awardees addressed the function. The texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries at the function are included in this issue of the *Journal.*

The Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was established in 1990 to encourage cooperation between Parliamentary Libraries and Research and Information Services attached to the National and State/Provincial Legislatures in the Asia Pacific region; to promote interpersonal contact between the members and to discuss matters of common concern and interest. The Eighth Biennial Conference of the APLAP was held in New Delhi from 18 to 22 January 2005. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Inaugural Address on 18 January 2005. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal also addressed the gathering. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the texts of the Addresses delivered by Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal on the occasion.

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice-and problem-oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—P.D.T. Achary
Editor

1

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together. The provision for an Address by the Head of State to the Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution. Under article 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 25 February 2005.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable members,

I am delighted to address the First Session of both the Houses of Parliament in the New Year. My greetings to all of you. We entered the New Year with mixed feelings. On the one hand, there were so many reasons for us to look forward to this year with hope and optimism; on the other hand, the entire nation was deeply moved by the Tsunami tragedy. Induced by a major earthquake in the ocean bed near Sumatra on 26 December 2004, a tsunami wave hit the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu. Our hearts reached out to those who saw their loved ones taken away by a killer wave that washed away the lives and

livelihoods of thousands of our people. The entire Nation shared the agony of those whose lives and livelihoods were destroyed by the disaster.

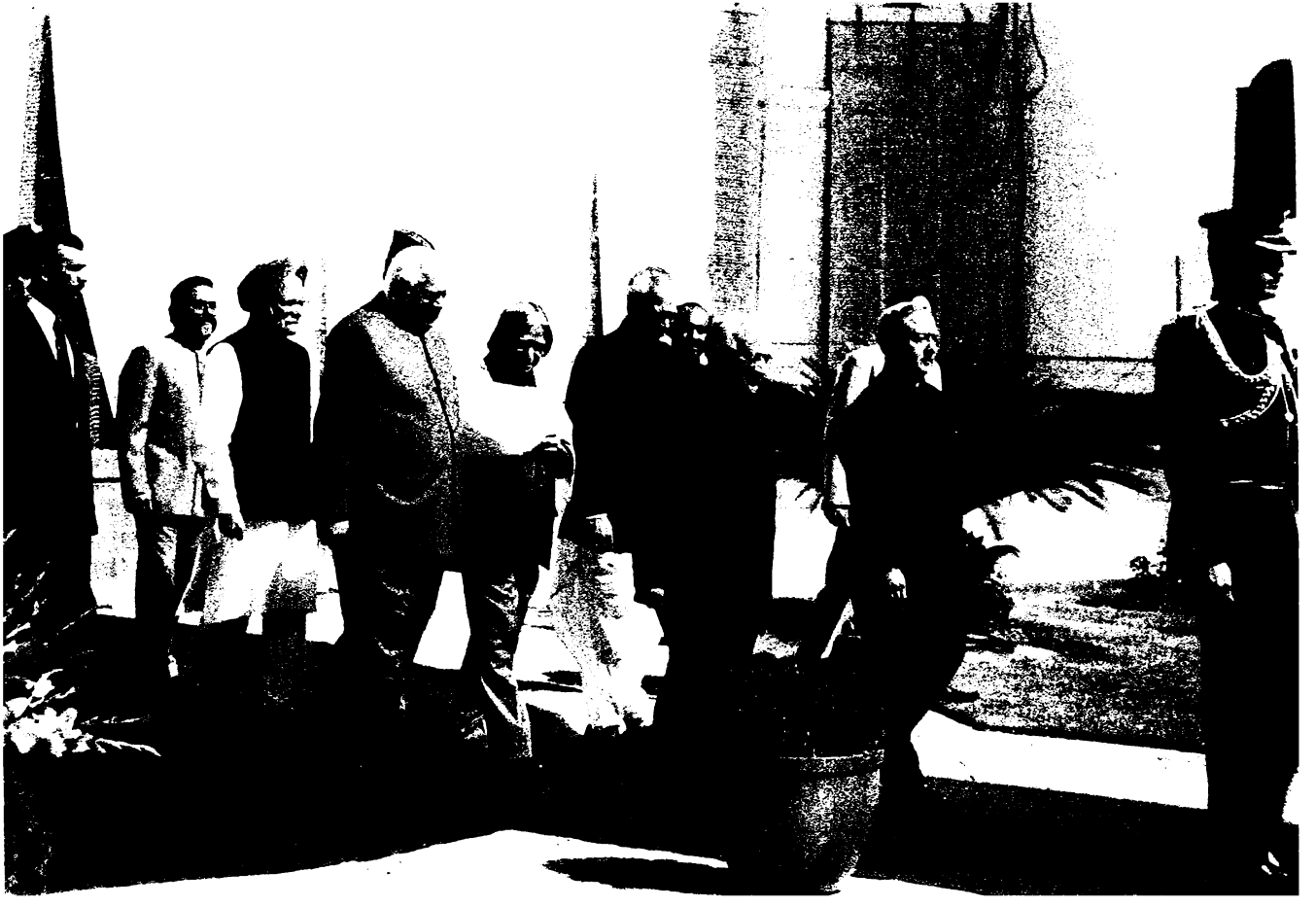
Honourable members will agree with me, however, that the silver lining to this dark cloud was the spontaneous response of our people in coming to the aid of the victims in their hour of need. Apart from the fact that contributions to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund have been unprecedented, millions of Indians and friends from overseas have contributed in their own way, directly and indirectly, to provide relief and facilitate rehabilitation of the affected people.

I must place on record the Nation's appreciation of the rescue, relief and rehabilitation work undertaken by the State and local Governments, the armed forces and non-government organizations. Given the nature of the disaster and the fact that this part of the world had not been visited upon by a tsunami in the living memory of anyone in this region, there was an element of surprise. This was compounded by the fact that the worst affected places were in the far-flung Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Yet, our response was quick. The Indian Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Central Paramilitary Forces played a heroic role in providing immediate relief not just to our people but also to the affected people in Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia.

My Government very correctly took the view that external assistance was not required for the immediate rescue and relief work. This work was best done by the local authorities and security forces and the resources required were available with the State and the Central governments. India thanks all those who expressed their concern and generously extended their help. We are open to external assistance and advice in rebuilding and reconstructing the destroyed economies and ecologies of the coastal region. We must convert this tragedy into an opportunity by modernizing the maritime economy and protecting the coastal ecology.

It is imperative that the momentum generated by our response in the relief and rehabilitation phase is sustained in the reconstruction phase. I hope that we would be able to demonstrate our reconstruction effort as a model of effective, humane and forward-looking public intervention in disaster mitigation.

The Government will shortly create a National Disaster Management Authority. A Central legislation on disaster management will soon be introduced in the Parliament. I would recommend that this Authority should have a strong science and technology component built into its



activities. We have to develop a long-term strategy in science and technology for dealing with natural disasters and threats to the ecology of our coastal areas. The need for such an Authority becomes even more pressing in view of the extensive loss to life and property caused by calamities such as the recent avalanches in Jammu and Kashmir resulting from heavy snowfall. The Nation shares the grief of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their hour of sorrow.

The generous response of the people of our country to the tsunami tragedy showed once again that there has been a paradigm shift in our political and social milieu. Those of us who have been concerned about the social trend towards personal aggrandizement and a political trend towards the politics of exclusion, would have been heartened by the genuine altruism and the sense of inclusiveness that characterized the mood of the Nation in the aftermath of the tsunami.

My Government is committed to an inclusive society, a caring polity and a sharing economy. This is the essence of the National Common Minimum Programme adopted by the constituents of the United Progressive Alliance, and supported by the Left and other like-minded parties. The UPA's vital contribution to the Nation has been the return of the polity to mainstream political values of pluralism, inclusiveness, secularism and economic growth with equity and social justice. The people of India have repeatedly reaffirmed their commitment to these core values of our Nationhood.

My Government has been able to enthuse people to re-focus their energies on economic development and social progress. Not surprisingly, a sense of optimism now pervades the country and we can look forward to a year of improved economic performance, communal harmony and political stability. All major economic indicators are looking up and investors have regained their faith in our potential. I believe we must capture this mood of optimism combined with altruism to strengthen the foundations of our inclusive democracy.

Honourable members, in the span of three quarters of a year that the United Progressive Alliance Government has been in office, considerable time and energy has already been devoted to the implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme. More importantly, an environment of social and political stability based on a commitment to the welfare of weaker sections, especially the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and the minorities has been created. The Government has sustained the process of economic growth with due regard for equity and social justice. It has ensured communal harmony and imparted a new sense of hope to the minorities and the weaker

sections of the society. My Government has infused a new sense of belonging among various disaffected groups, especially in the North-eastern States and among the tribal communities across the country. The handing over of the historic Kangla Fort to the people of Manipur was not just a glorious moment in the history of the Manipuri people, it also symbolized my Government's commitment to all segments of our society that they have a right to live a life of dignity and self-respect. It is with this same message that the Prime Minister visited the State of Jammu and Kashmir, to empathize with the people living in the Kashmir Valley, and migrant Kashmiri pandits in Jammu.

My Government has constituted a Commission for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities. This Commission will examine the social and economic status of these deprived groups and suggest mechanisms for enhancing their educational, employment and economic opportunities. We will also prepare a White Paper on the status of minority communities in India. Subsequently, the Government will recast the 15-point programme for the welfare of the minorities with a view to incorporating programme specific interventions.

Adivasis in this country have been leading a life of insecurity in many areas since their property rights have remained unsettled. It is necessary to recognize their need for assured property and land rights in areas they have been residing in for several generations. It is an irony that tribals who have been living in "forest villages" and have been practicing agriculture on these lands for several generations have not been given due recognition of their rights. Their problems are engaging the attention of the Government and we will try to settle the issue of land rights of the tribals. The outcome will be beneficial both for the tribals and for the goal of forest conservation.

My Government believes that it is its responsibility to ensure that the deprived sections of the society are given a fair deal. We are committed to taking steps for their educational and economic empowerment. We should also take simultaneous action to protect their human rights and also free them from the age old prejudices. The Government will take legal action to ban the degrading practice of manual scavenging, and the States would be given time up to August 2005 to enforce it. My Government is equally committed to the upliftment and empowerment of physically and mentally challenged persons.

It is absolutely essential that the deprived sections of our society benefit from the growth processes we have unleashed. The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to engage in a dialogue with the industry to explore mechanisms for increasing employment opportunities

for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector. The Government has introduced the Reservation Bill in the Parliament codifying all provisions on reservation in Government. In addition, a Committee of Ministers on *Dalit* Affairs has been formed to give focused attention to all the issues related to the welfare of the *Dalits*.

Honourable members, an important commitment of the National Common Minimum Programme that the Government has fulfilled has been to hold the price line. Owing to the impact of a weak monsoon as well as the steep increase in international energy prices, the rate of inflation had gone up in the middle of last year. However, despite continued pressure on the oil price front, a judicious mix of economic policies and administrative intervention has helped bring the rate of inflation down. After rising above 8.0% in August 2004, the rate of inflation, as measured by the wholesale price index, has come down to 5.0%. The rate of inflation as measured by the consumer price index has declined and is significantly lower than the wholesale price index. My Government is committed to reining in the rate of inflation as it hurts the poor the most. The Government's success in bringing the rate of inflation down has been the most important of the many pro-poor interventions it has been able to make in the past nine months. The Government will remain steadfast in its resolve to hold the price line and protect the real incomes of the poor.

The control of inflation forms a reassuring backdrop to the revival of investment and business activity in the economy. All macro-economic indicators are looking up. On top of a year of record growth in 2003-04 which was based largely on a recovery from the previous year's poor growth, the economy is once again poised to record close to 7.0% growth in 2004-05, despite a weaker monsoon and higher oil prices. The revival of investment activity and an increase in the rate of capital formation have contributed to an annual growth in 2004-05 of 8.9% in manufacturing output and 8.9% in services sector incomes. Despite a modest 1.1% growth in agricultural production on account of a weak monsoon, food prices have been under check.

Foreign trade has been growing at a rapid pace with exports rising by 25.6% and imports by 34.7% in US dollar terms in the period April-January 2004-05. Investment, both domestic and foreign, has been rising and is a measure of the confidence of investors in our economy. In order to accelerate investment activity further by removing policy and operational constraints, the Government has constituted an Investment Commission. While foreign exchange reserves continue to remain at record levels, the revival of investment activity and the consequent

increase in import demand has stabilized the rate of accumulation. Overall, all macro-economic indicators are robust and positive and there is an air of optimism in the economy and the markets. My Government will pursue policies that will sustain this recovery and accelerate growth, moving forward on the twin roads of efficiency and equity, while maintaining a high degree of fiscal and financial discipline.

Honourable members, the core commitments of the National Common Minimum Programme are the seven priority areas of Agriculture, Education, Employment, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Urban Renewal and Water.

My Government is committed to giving a "New Deal To Rural India". This "new deal" involves, among other things: reversing the declining trend in investment in agriculture; stepping up credit flow to farmers; enhancing public investment in irrigation and wasteland development; increasing funds for agricultural research and extension; creating a 'single market' for agricultural produce; investing in rural healthcare and education; promoting rural electrification and rural roads; setting up commodities future markets and insuring against risk in farming and rural business.

One of the first steps that my Government took in office last year was to effect a steep increase in credit flow to agriculture. The entire country was deeply distressed by the misfortune of several farmers' in parts of the country, some of whom were driven to desperation and suicide. My Government took several measures to address the distress of the affected families and undertook many initiatives to ease the flow of credit to farmers. A special package for doubling the agricultural credit flow in the next three years and for providing credit-related relief to farmers was announced in June 2004. As against the targeted agricultural credit flow of Rs.1,05,000 crore for the year, as much as Rs. 99,240 crore had already been provided by the end of January 2005, amounting to nearly 95% of the target. To protect farmers from the vagaries of nature and the uncertainties of the market, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide farm and farm income insurance. The Farm Income Insurance Scheme that was being implemented for *Rabi* crops has since been extended to the *Kharif* crops also. The modernization of the meteorological forecasting system will also contribute to improvement in our agricultural performance by providing more accurate forecasts of weather patterns.

Horticulture is one of the areas identified for priority attention, for which a National Horticulture Mission is proposed to be launched. This initiative, the details of which will be outlined by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, has the potential of transforming the rural landscape and also our export profile of agricultural products.

The problem of water availability and utilization has received special attention in the National Common Minimum Programme. Water is a national resource, and we have to take an integrated view of our country's water resources, our needs, our policies and our water utilization practices. We need to ensure the equitable use of scarce water resources. I urge you and all our political leaders to take a national and a holistic view of the challenge of managing our water resources.

We need mass action for the conservation of water. People have demonstrated their capacity to take leadership in this area. My Government proposes to promote water conservation and water harvesting in a major way, through a people's movement. Current programmes for dry land farming and artificial recharge would provide technical support for such a Mission, while the investment that is proposed under the wage employment programmes would provide the funds for a citizen and community-led movement for water conservation. Existing programmes of watershed management would complement this effort, which would also be on a watershed basis. This would address the issue of increasing water availability, especially in our arid and semi-arid regions.

The Government has proposed to launch a new scheme to promote micro irrigation, including drip and sprinkler irrigation in rain-deficient areas. Public-Private Partnership is also crucial for the development of the agriculture sector, especially in rural infrastructure.

The problem of seasonal flooding in the Brahmaputra Valley and in the Gangetic plains is engaging the attention of the Government. To identify long-term solutions and to harness the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers, the Government has set up a Committee to examine the feasibility of setting up a North East Valley Authority. Financial allocations for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) have been increased. The Union Budget 2004-05 has taken steps to support water harvesting schemes for SC/ST farmers. Water management in all its aspects, both for irrigation and drinking purposes, will receive urgent attention. The Government is also pursuing all water- related issues with neighbouring countries in a spirit of cooperation.

Agricultural research and extension will be another area of priority for my Government. Funding for agricultural research is being stepped up. New centers of excellence will be promoted to increase the number of agricultural scientists and graduates to enable the further modernization of agriculture. A "New Deal For Rural India" also requires revitalization of the institutions of rural development. My Government's commitment to grassroots democracy is reflected in the creation of a new Ministry of *Panchayati Raj*. In consultation with Chief Ministers, the Ministry has

drawn up a 150-point Action Plan covering 18 aspects of *Panchayati Raj*. The Government will actively involve *Panchayati Raj* institutions in the implementation of development programmes. The cooperative sector has also been an important instrument of agricultural development in our country. The Government is committed to strengthening cooperatives by infusing a professional management culture and restoring their democratic character. A scheme for the revitalization of the cooperative credit structure has been prepared by NABARD.

A National Committee on Rural Infrastructure has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to ensure that urban amenities and infrastructural facilities are made available in the rural areas. A Rural Electrification Strategy has been drawn up to create a rural Electricity Distribution Backbone and Village Electricity Infrastructure. My Government is committed to the objective of providing electricity to all villages in the country by the year 2009. The infrastructure gap between urban and rural areas has to be closed and employment, livelihood and investment opportunities have to be made available in rural areas. This will also discourage distress migration to towns that has imposed enormous pressure on urban infrastructure. We must improve rural roads, schools and healthcare facilities and public services in a planned manner.

There are many other initiatives that my Government has taken that will greatly benefit the agrarian economy and people living in rural areas. These include programmes and policies aimed at strengthening and modernizing rural infrastructure and improving rural health and education. Taken together, all these initiatives constitute a major developmental thrust for our agrarian economy. That India lives in its villages may be a worn out cliche, but it is a reality that we must constantly remember. Until our citizens living in rural India, especially the farmers and the weaker sections, are economically and socially empowered, India cannot shine. My Government wants India to shine, but it must shine for all!

Honourable members, a second area of special attention for my Government is employment. It is a priority for a country in which the share of the youth in our population is rising and will continue to rise for some decades to come. The policies aimed at increasing investment and stepping up the growth rate or agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure and the services sector will undoubtedly generate new employment opportunities. To take care of those who are likely to be left behind by development processes and to ensure that there is a safety net, especially in some of the more backward regions of the country, my Government has come forward with a National Employment Guarantee Bill. This Bill before the Parliament will provide legal guarantee for at least 100 days

of employment to at least one person in every poor household initially in some of the most backward districts of the country. This programme is to be gradually expanded to cover all rural areas. In the interim, the government has also launched a National Food-for-Work Programme in 150 backward districts. The programme was launched from a backward district of Andhra Pradesh on the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Fifty lakh additional families have been issued Antyodaya Cards, taking the total up to 2 crore families.

Ours has been a knowledge-based civilization for millennia and yet we remain a country with an unacceptably high rate of illiteracy. Today our best and brightest are at the forefront of the global knowledge economy and yet many of our schools and colleges are unable to meet the aspirations of all those who seek the light of knowledge. This must change. India needs a new knowledge revolution, a new wave of investment in education at all level of the knowledge pyramid, from elementary schools in villages to world-class research institutions. My Government will give priority to issues of both access and excellence in education.

Resources for elementary education have been augmented through the Education Cess which will form the *Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh*. This will enable better funding of the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, *Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya*, the Mid-day Meal Scheme, and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls. The National Mission for *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* has been constituted for the first time. The launch of EDUSAT, an educational satellite, and of Doordarshan's Direct-To-Home television facility will enable us to use modern technology in spreading literacy. My Government has also given special attention to the educational development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities. A National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions has been established to safeguard the interests of institutes of higher learning set up by the minorities.

The Universities of Allahabad and Manipur are being given the status of Central Universities and a special grant has been given to Jamia Millia Islamia. The Government has also sanctioned an Indian Institute of Management for the North-east and has agreed to aid faculty development at Kashmir University.

These are some of the first steps taken by my Government to improve the educational system. Much more needs to be done and will be done. We need a modern educational system that promotes secular values and creates concerned, committed and competent citizens capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century. We must inculcate

in our people greater curiosity about the world around us and promote a scientific temper. The future of our great nation depends on the quality and content of our educational system. The Government has already announced its intent to set up a National Knowledge Commission to give India the knowledge edge in the 21st Century. This Knowledge Commission would have five prongs: increasing access to knowledge for public benefit, nurturing knowledge concepts in Universities, knowledge creation in S&T laboratories, promoting application of knowledge in our business and industry and using knowledge to improve service delivery in Government. The development of basic science and of science and technology will receive the Government's highest priority. The Government is committed to the promotion of public-private partnerships in R&D, especially in bio-technology, space and defence technologies and to increase funding for frontier areas of scientific and technological research.

Another priority area for policy action is health care. A major commitment of the Government is to increase the spending on public health from the present level of 0.9% of GDP to 2.0% over the next five years, and to improve the delivery of primary health services, especially in rural areas for poor people. My Government proposes to launch a National Rural Health Mission which will be based on a district-based planning and management model of health care delivery, with the involvement of *Panchayati Raj* institutions. This decentralized model of health management will, for the first time, enable localized solutions to health problems, and hopefully will lead to the goal of 'Health for All'.

Honourable members, my Government will also pay special attention to the development of urban infrastructure and to making our towns and cities more livable. For a country where more than a third of the population lives in urban areas, it is time to focus on the task of providing world class infrastructure and access to basic amenities in towns and cities. This will enable our cities to play the role of magnets of economic growth effectively. A proposed Mission on Urban Renewal will address this need.

A key priority area for my Government is infrastructure. If the Government's objective of enabling the economy to log 7% to 8% growth over the next decade has to be realized, the country will require massive investment in infrastructure. There is an urgent need to increase public and private investment in power, roads, railways, ports and inland waterways, civil aviation and housing. A Committee on Infrastructure has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Our economy requires at least upto $150 billion worth of investment in the infrastructure

sector over the next decade to catch up with our East Asian neighbours.

The Committee on Infrastructure has already laid down a road-map for a new Civil Aviation Policy that will improve aviation services, promote domestic airlines, modernize civil aviation Infrastructure and offer consumers wider choice. The adhocism and lack of transparency that characterized civil aviation policy in the past has been replaced by a transparent, forward-looking policy framework that will encourage new investment in this sector. The Government has decided to grant greater autonomy to the National Highways Authority of India while taking steps to make it more professional and efficient. The rate of completion of road construction under the national highways programme, especially the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West corridors, has been speeded up. The Government will encourage public-private partnership in ail infrastructure projects. Special focus will be given to improving rail and road connectivity in the North-Eastern region. My Government is in the process of setting up appropriate mechanisms for this purpose. Road and rail development in Jammu & Kashmir will also be accorded higher priority with the upgradation of several historic links such as the Mughal Road.

The success of our telecom policy over the past decade has demonstrated the benefits of pursuing a liberal policy in the infrastructure sector. The beneficiary of such a policy will, in the final analysis, be the consumer. My Government plans to increase India's tele-density from a lowly 8.4% today to more than 20% by 2008. The priority will be to provide both voice and data transmission connectivity in rural areas. The broadband policy announced recently would enhance internet connectivity with increased speed. This, in turn, would help our rural areas to take advantage of the benefits of e-governance, e-education and e-health. The digital divide between rural and urban areas must be bridged expeditiously, since it is possible for us to leap-frog into next generation information technology.

The National Electricity Policy adopted by my Government will encourage new investment in the sector, while ensuring that the interests of consumers, including rural consumers, are also served. The success of the Inter Institutional Group in facilitating financial closure of 11 private power projects with an aggregate capacity of over 4000 MW, envisaging a funds commitment of over Rs. 13,000 crores, augurs well for future investment in this sector. The initiatives of my Government have significantly boosted the confidence of private promoters and financing institutions in reiterating their commitment to fund viable private power projects. The public response to the sale of the Government equity in the National Thermal Power Corporation along with the issue of fresh equity by it

through an Initial Public Offer in November 2004 bears great promise for policy initiatives in this area.

To sustain the anticipated increase in our economic growth rate, we have to ensure access to energy. Energy security is, therefore, a key national priority. My Government has taken several steps, both economic and diplomatic, to enhance India's energy security. Public sector undertakings have a key role to play in facing competitive challenges, both domestically and internationally. There is a need for the oil PSUs to leverage their strengths in their respective areas of core competence to optimally fulfill the key role envisaged for them in promoting the national objectives of energy security, accelerated growth rate and sustained economic development. With this in view, an advisory committee on Synergy in Energy has been constituted. My Government launched the 5th Round of New Exploration Licensing Policy on 4 January 2005, providing attractive investment opportunities for companies to explore oil and gas. In addition, my Government will give the highest priority to developing strategies to enhance our capabilities in harnessing alternative sources of energy for our long term energy requirements.

Honourable members, while these seven areas of concern to our people will receive the priority attention of the Government, emphasis will also be placed on other important sectors, especially the modernization and development of our manufacturing and services sectors. The decline in the share of manufacturing in national income in recent years is a matter of concern. My Government has set up a National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council to increase the productivity of our manufacturing sector which is vital for maintaining its competitive position in a world where trade barriers are being removed. My Government will give high priority to the acceleration of industrial development at home. There are immense opportunities in a wide range of manufacturing industries, including textiles and garments, automobiles and auto-components, leather and pharmaceuticals that will be tapped. This will receive the special attention of my Government.

The end of the Multi-Fibre Agreement opens up new opportunities for external trade in the textiles sector that Indian industry must tap. The Government will take all necessary steps and reforms to encourage investment in this sector. India has enormous advantages in the textiles sector, both traditional and modern, and must regain its pre-eminent position in the world market. The revamping of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission should also help in encouraging the growth of the much neglected handloom sector. My Government will encourage

the modernization of handlooms and promote their design and marketing capabilities. The plight of weavers has been engaging public attention for quite sometime, but not enough has been done in this regard. My Government proposes to focus on improving the situation of weavers through a time-bound programme spanning the next two years, to be called "Two Years For The Weavers". Under this programme, traditional looms would be replaced, design capability would be improved for value addition and weavers given access to new technology, credit and markets. Professionals would be incentivised to connect Indian weavers to premium markets where Indian handloom still commands upmarket attention. The biggest challenge in promoting the growth of the manufacturing sector is to promote Brand India, the "Made in India" label.

Over 90% of our labour force is in the informal sector My Government will set up an appropriate institutional and regulatory mechanism to ensure their welfare. While striving for improved social protection, we must also not lose sight of the need to augment employment opportunities through a judicious mix of incentives and regulation. A National Commission has been appointed to examine the problems of enterprises in the unorganized, informal sector and to make recommendations on providing technical, marketing and credit support to small and tiny enterprises and to self-employed persons in this sector. Based on the recommendations of this Commission, we will design appropriate programmes to ensure that the informal sector blossoms, not only in economic performance but also as a provider of employment opportunities. A Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises has been set up to devolve full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful public sector companies while at the same time working out solutions to the problems of loss making ones.

Honourable members, economic development, and the welfare and socio-economic empowerment of our people are my Government's top most priorities. There are, however, forces at work that are inimical to the realization of these objectives. My Government is determined to deal with all such threats to peace and national security. My Government is fully alive to the internal and external challenges to our national security. It will not hesitate in taking any steps required to deal with the threat of terrorism or attempts to spread disaffection and disturb law and order. The overall internal security situation in the country remained under control in 2004. The three main areas of challenge to our national security have been identified as cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, insurgency in the North East region and Naxalite violence in some States. We need a multi-faceted approach to meet this challenge. The machinery for the enforcement of law and order has to be made

more effective. At the same time, we must also deal with the underlying causes that give rise to a feeling of alienation among a section of the people, the large majority of whom wish to live in peace and security. Administration at all levels must become more focused on equitable and people-centred development. My Government would pay equal attention to the development dimension and human rights concerns.

In dealing with these threats, my Government was of the view that the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, had been misused and that this Act was in fact not required since existing laws could adequately handle the menace of terrorism. The Government therefore repealed POTA and amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, to put in place a legal regime to deal with the various facets of terrorism. This does not in any, way imply a weakening of our resolve to deal with elements inimical to our national security. The Government will invest in the welfare of our security forces and in the modernization of their equipment.

My Government is committed to paying equal attention to the genuine concerns of the people and redressing their grievances. It will take steps to accelerate the tempo of social and economic development so that young people in Jammu and Kashmir have ample opportunity to live a life of dignity, self-respect and prosperity. In pursuit of peace and normalcy, my Government has repeatedly expressed its willingness to talk to any group provided they abjure the path of violence. Cross-border terrorism remains a potential threat both in our West and East, even though there has been a decline in the number of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir in recent months. The infrastructure of terrorism has not been dismantled across the border. The Government has accorded top most priority to the erection of fencing on the India-Bangladesh border to contain infiltration, smuggling and other anti-India activities from across the border.

Activities of underground groups and ethnic tensions have continued to vitiate the atmosphere in some parts of the North Eastern States. We are committed to restoring normalcy, so that people of the North-Eastern region can live normal lives and prosper economically. My Government is willing to engage any group abjuring violence in a meaningful dialogue. It is with this spirit that the Government is engaged in a dialogue with various groups in the North Eastern States. Our Government will pay adequate attention to accelerating the pace of development in the North Eastern region and to ensure that this development takes into account their legitimate aspirations.

The economic development of Jammu and Kashmir and of the North Eastern States will receive the special attention of my

Government. The Government has prepared a plan for the reconstruction and development of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The infrastructural components of the plan would revitalize the State's ailing tourism industry, create new capabilities and generate employment opportunities. The successful implementation of the proposed projects would require improved governance, transparent and corruption free administration, peace, security, the rule of law, fiscal responsibility and the economic pricing of public utilities.

To guide the economic development of the North Eastern States, the North Eastern Council is being rejuvenated and expanded. My Government is pleased by the favourable response of the people of Manipur to its decision to constitute an independent group to examine the provisions of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. This Group will recommend whether to modify the existing Act or replace it with a more humane law to address the requirements of national security while respecting the human rights of our people. The region needs a new agenda of hope. The doors of the Government are always open to all groups who are committed to the economic upliftment and the social and political empowerment of the region. There is no issue, no grievance that is so intractable that it cannot be resolved through a patient, constructive dialogue. This is the only possible way forward. Our democratic system is open enough, and flexible enough to welcome the participation of all shades of opinion. In the final analysis, power in India can only flow from the ballot box; never from the barrel of a gun.

My Government also remains firmly committed to ensuring communal harmony. The National Integration Council has been reconstituted. A Model Comprehensive Law to deal with communal violence is on the anvil. My Government will deal resolutely with any attempts to spread communalism, disturb law and order and deny a life of peace and security to any citizen. The menace of Naxalism is posing a threat to peace and security in many parts of the country. Each State Government will have to devise means to deal with this threat by distinguishing between the genuine demands of the downtrodden and the nefarious designs of anti-national elements. My Government is committed to the welfare of all the weaker sections, and will encourage a dialogue with all political forces interested in promoting the welfare of the people in a peaceful manner. However, it will deal effectively with any group challenging the Constitutional authority of a democratically elected Government and resorting to the use of arms.

Honourable members, modernization of our Armed Forces is one of the priority areas of the Government included in the National Common

Minimum Programme. There has been an increase in the allocation of funds for modernization of the Armed Forces. Modernization projects of the Army, Navy and Air Force are well in hand. A number of new projects for induction of various equipment and weapon systems are in progress. In the Department of Defence Research and Development, three prototypes of the Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas' are undergoing flight testing and have completed 307 test flights including super-sonic flights. The Integrated Electronic Warfare System 'Samyukta' has been successfully evaluated and accepted by the Army. 'Sangraha', an electronic warfare system for the Navy, has been accepted and production orders placed. The 'Nag' third generation anti-tank missile and 'Akash' surface to air missile have undergone successful flight tests. The supersonic cruise missile Brahmos, a joint venture programme with Russia, has been successfully tested for the anti-ship role and is ready for induction. The Main Battle Tank "Arjun" has been successfully inducted into the Army.

As announced in the Common Minimum Programme, a separate Department of Ex-servicemen's Welfare has been created in the Ministry of Defence. This department would give a special focus and thrust to ex-servicemen's welfare. A Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs has been created to give focused attention to issues related to the large diaspora of persons of Indian origin in different parts of the world.

My Government is committed to the reform of Government and to making it more transparent, responsive and efficient. A Model Code of Good Governance for public servants is being drawn up as part of a comprehensive reform of administration and administrative procedures. The Government will set up an Administrative Reforms Commission to prepare a blueprint for revamping the public administration system. The enactment of the Right to Information Act will empower citizens and oblige authorities to be more transparent. As part of the Government's efforts to enhance the quality of governance, a number of new initiatives are proposed to be taken to ensure that government functionaries, at all levels, are properly trained to discharge their responsibilities and citizens have an effective mechanism for grievance redressal.

Honourable members, my Government's foreign policy is based on the centrality of national interests in the conduct of our external relations and the pursuit of our economic interests. The Government has taken important initiatives, keeping in mind the imperative of retaining our freedom of options, remaining alive to our concerns. The Government's efforts have contributed to making the international environment for India's development more secure. We have articulated our positions and

views clearly so that India's foreign partners have a better appreciation of the logic of our position on issues of importance to us.

My Government has accorded primary attention to relations with our neighbours and strengthening SAARC. It is my Government's earnest desire to work with all our neighbours to create a neighbourhood of shared prosperity and peace. We will reaffirm the importance we attach to realizing the potential inherent in SAARC at its forthcoming Summit meeting. Our approach to our neighbours is founded on the conviction that the peoples of our region have a desire for enhanced cooperation, overcoming perceived barriers and inhibitions. Our effort will be to consolidate and expand traditional friendship while we work to nurture newer partnerships. We value our specially close relationship with Bhutan and we will strive to build on this. We have had the privilege of a special and warm relationship with Bangladesh. India was among the earliest to rush relief and assistance to both Sri Lanka and Maldives which suffered the impact of the tsunami. This even while we ourselves were coping with the effects of the tsunami in our coastal areas, and assessing the extent of our damage, demonstrates the importance we attach to these relationships and our commitment to good neighbourly ties. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Sri Lanka will further deepen our economic cooperation. President Karzai's recent visit will strengthen our participation in Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts.

Our relations with Pakistan are of utmost importance in our endeavour to create a neighbourhood of peace, stability and prosperity. We are engaged in a serious dialogue with Pakistan and have taken several initiatives in furtherance of that. In proposing a range of steps, including Confidence Building Measures that may be taken in the near term, leading up to longer term economic cooperation, we are responding to the felt desire of our peoples. However, the process of normalisation is critically dependent on Pakistan fulfilling its assurance that it would end its support to terrorist activities.

The India-Pakistan process was recently taken significantly forward. An agreement was reached to start a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. It was also agreed in principle to start bus services between Lahore and Amritsar, including to religious places such as Nankana Sahib. Pakistan also agreed to work towards early restoration of the Khokrapar-Munabao rail link. These measures would enhance people to people contacts, which have also provided palpable support to the present process.

Our relationship with Nepal will continue to receive high priority and it remains our view that the problems that Nepal faces today can only be addressed by a constitutional Monarchy and multi-party democracy working together harmoniously on the basis of a national consensus. India has expressed grave concern following the dissolution of the multi-party Government, declaration of emergency and arrest of political leaders by His Majesty, the King of Nepal on 1 February 2005.

We greatly value our relations with our major economic partners. India-US relations are on a steady course as they draw on the enduring affinity between our two countries as democracies and as strategic partners. We will continue to build upon the convergences in this relationship, strengthening our bilateral economic interface and the vibrant people-to-people contacts. Our ties with the European Union and its 25 members States have expanded steadily, and on our part, we will work to add momentum to the strategic partnership on which we have embarked, including at the next India-EU Summit in New Delhi this year. We value our time tested and strategic partnership with Russia which was strengthened by the recent visit of the President of the Russian Federation. The depth of our cooperation illustrates the priority we attach to deepening and consolidating this important relationship. My Government has sought to accelerate our dialogue and engagement with China and we look forward to the visit of its Premier as an important bilateral landmark.

The "Look East Policy" has substantially strengthened our linkages with Japan, the member countries of ASEAN and the Republic of Korea. We expect the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Japan to be a significant event in our bilateral ties. Our relationship with ASEAN has taken on new dimensions and we hope to realise its huge potential. India's effective presence at the ASEAN Summit in November 2004 and the success of the first BIMSTEC Summit in July 2004 helped us forge closer links with our eastern neighbours.

The convergence of our foreign policy and our domestic needs is striking in the context of our energy security. My Government will give full importance to synchronising our diplomatic activity with our need for energy to fuel our developmental needs. Our established and traditional interests in the West Asia, the Gulf and the proximate regions, including the substantial presence there of our citizens, shall continue to be reflected in our interactions. We remain committed to the efforts of the international community in finding a just and durable solution to the problems that have faced the Palestinian people, so that they may achieve a State of their own. At the same time, we attach high importance

to our friendly relations with Israel which we hope to strengthen and diversify.

The forthcoming 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference will be an important occasion to recall an historic initiative taken at a time when the process of decolonisation was starting to gather strength and which prefigured the values of the Non-Aligned Movement. In this spirit, we will continue to pursue the comprehensive exercise to broaden the range of our relations with countries in Africa and Latin America, on which we have embarked. We will also reaffirm our commitment to the values of the Commonwealth at its Summit meeting in November this year.

This year, we also mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the founding of the United Nations Organization. It is our firm belief that the problems that confront the world today are truly global and are problems without borders, which call for collective approaches. We will play an active and constructive role in all deliberations of global concern. There is growing recognition of India's legitimate aspiration to play a larger role in the UN, consistent with our status and strength. We attach importance to the process of reform of the United Nations as part of the necessary renewal of the Organisation and we intend to articulate forcefully our aspiration to permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

Honourable members, this is a year of many anniversaries. This year we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the *Dandi* March and the Salt *Satyagraha* launched by the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. I hope the entire Nation will recall the spirit of idealism and self-sacrifice that characterized this High Noon of our freedom struggle. With nothing more than the salt of our own land, Gandhiji made colonial rule unacceptable in a non-violent manner that captured the imagination of the entire world.

In commemorating the Salt *Satyagraha*, every Indian must rediscover pride in our quest for freedom and self-respect and recapture the confidence shown by our forefathers who won us liberation from colonial rule. We have come a long way in these 75 years. Today India stands tall in the comity of Nations, as an independent Republic committed to the principles of freedom, secularism, pluralism and the welfare of all.

This year is also the Centenary Year of the great national upheaval against the designs of the British Raj on the issue of partition of Bengal in 1905. My Government salutes the contributions of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore and other leaders of the national movement who opposed

the heinous attempt of Lord Curzon to divide Bengal. We acknowledge with gratitude the leadership and commitment of national leaders and Gurudev Tagore in uniting people, strengthening communal harmony and protesting against this partition, which was later on withdrawn by the British Raj due to the massive mobilization of people.

Recently, the country celebrated the 150th anniversary of India Post. In a fitting tribute to India Post, the Government recently took initiatives to market the '.in' domain. I hope Honourable members who have their own websites will now switch to the '.in' domain! This year marks the 125th birth anniversary of the renowned writer Prem Chand. He not only introduced to Hindi and Urdu prose a new genre of writing that endeared him to generations of Indians, but through his prose, placed the plight of the ordinary Indian, the aam admi, at the core of our concerns. I hope Prem Chand will be rediscovered in every school by every child across the length and breadth of our vast Republic.

The year 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Albert Einstein and the 100th anniversary of what is often called his "annus mirabilis". That was the year when a 26-year-old patent clerk published three of his four greatest works, including the theory of relativity. My Government will celebrate Einstein's anniversary by paying special attention to basic sciences in our schools and colleges, modernizing and reforming our institutions of science and, above all, rededicating itself to the spread of scientific temper.

I am sure Honourable members will join me in expressing our admiration for the energy and enthusiasm with which our young women and men are participating in an increasing range of sports and winning laurels for the country at home and abroad. I believe this augurs well as we prepare to host the 2010 Commonwealth Games and stake our claim to host the 2018 Olympics.

This Government had promised a "New Deal to Rural India". In my address to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day, I had outlined a vision for rural development. The vision envisages total eradication of poverty, excellent and affordable opportunities for education and skill development for all citizens, health care for all and sanitation coverage and generation of higher income levels for all Indians. In addition, Indian agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors will not only cater to domestic needs but also acquire leadership positions in the global economy. My Government will promote rural development by Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA). Physical connectivity, electronic connectivity and knowledge connectivity will achieve economic connectivity.

Rural India should be seen as a growth engine and public investment is required in the area of rural infrastructure to unleash its growth potential. My Government proposes to undertake a major plan for rebuilding rural India called "Bharat Nirman". This will be a time-bound business plan for building rural infrastructure in the areas of irrigation, roads, housing, water supply, electrification and telecommunication connectivity. The Government will indicate specific targets to be achieved under each of these goals. It is the Government's firm resolve to make rural India realize its inherent potential. Bharat Nirman would be the platform on which my Government will construct its 'New Deal for Rural India'. The details of this programme will be outlined by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech.

Honourable members, you have the heavy burden of legislative work pending before you. This Session will discuss the Union Budget and other Legislative business. There are several important Bills at various stages of deliberation awaiting your consideration. The people of India anxiously await your views and your decisions on these crucial economic and social legislation. I urge you, Honourable Members, to repay the trust and confidence that the people have reposed in you by dedicating yourselves to the orderly consideration of these Bills. Every minute of the Parliament's time is precious and every citizen and taxpayer values it greatly. I sincerely hope you will make the most effective use of the time at your disposal and meet the citizens' expectations and fulfill their aspirations.

I wish you all success in your deliberations. *Jai Hind.*

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE AT THE EMERGENT CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA ON "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE JUDICIARY"

An Emergent Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India on "The Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary" was held at New Delhi on 20 March 2005.

We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Conference.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

Honourable Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Honourable Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha and Honourable Presiding Officers:

I have the honour to welcome you all to this Conference. I sincerely thank each one of you for having made it convenient to attend this Conference at a very short notice.

It was only in October 2004 that we had deliberated on the subject of 'Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary' at the Symposium held alongside our Annual Conference at Kolkata. However, in the wake of the interim order passed by the Honourable Supreme Court on 9 March 2005 in the Jharkhand case, I felt it was my duty as the Speaker of Lok Sabha and as the Chairman of the Conference of Presiding Officer, to call this Emergent Conference as I am of the view that the order has created a disturbing situation having a direct bearing on the relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary affecting the concept of separation of powers, which is a basic feature of the Constitution, as decided by the Supreme Court itself. I feel that as the custodians of the powers and privileges of our Legislative Bodies, it becomes incumbent upon us to consider this issue with seriousness and sincerity and to express our concern and to endeavour towards further strengthening the essentially harmonious relations between the

two vital pillars of our democracy, namely, the Legislature and the Judiciary.

Let me at the outset make it absolutely clear that the Conference is not at all concerned with the political merits or demerits of what happened in Jharkhand after the recent Assembly elections. For that matter, the issue as such is not confined to the State of Jharkhand alone. It is much broader in content and contours, involving the interpretation of the Constitutional provisions regarding the well-established principle of separation of powers among the different organs of the State. The subject in question involves the powers of the Judiciary *vis-a-vis* the powers and privileges of the Legislature, the Speaker and the members of the Legislature.

I believe and I am sure you all will agree with me that parliamentary democracy draws its sustenance, *inter alia* from the principle of democratisation of the responsibilities and powers, as a key to good governance and abhors arbitrariness of any one organ and their working at cross purposes. The distribution of powers, and checks and balances among the various organs of the State constitute one of the characteristic features of democratic set-up.

The greatest challenge before the framers of our Constitution was to ascertain which model of democratic governance would best suit our genius and ground realities so as to ensure good governance and development in the country. It speaks of the farsightedness of our Founding Fathers that they decided upon a unique scheme of governance with a judicious blending of the principle of distribution of powers and the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty in such a manner that we have the best of both, but without the absolute rigidity of either of the two. It is this very postulate that made our Constitution the supreme law of the land, subjecting all the branches of governance to its overriding authority and control.

Each organ of the State—the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive—is the creation of the Constitution, and derives its powers from the Constitution and is expected to function in conformity with it. The powers, jurisdiction and responsibilities of each organ and its relationship with one another have been clearly demarcated in purpose. intent and areas of activities, leaving hardly any scope for doubt or confusion. If there is any doubt, there is always the spirit of the Constitution which clearly delineates harmonious relations among the various organs.

What is important here is a proper understanding and appreciation among the different organs about their respective roles and jurisdictions. If any one of them oversteps the assigned limits or displays trends

towards that, the stability of the entire edifice could be affected. Here, it is pertinent to cite the observations made by Justice Raghava Rao of the Madras High Court in the A.K. Gopalan case, in 1953, and I quote:

> "The powers of each one of the three organs have to be exercised as fundamentally subject to the provisions of the Constitution relating to that organ individually as well as to the provisions relating to other organs.... It is the respect that is accorded by one organ of the State to the others that ensures that healthy working of the Constitution which is the acid test of its merits, whatever the paper value of its provisions."

Our Constitution does not envisage unchecked any unbridled powers to any of the organs. Each one of them is supreme in its own sphere and is meant to be so, within the parameters laid down by the Constitution. Being the supreme representative and legislative body, the Legislature has been accorded a pre-eminent position in our political set-up. To mention only a few provisions, the power to make laws, its control over the nation's purse, the Executive being made accountable to the popular House, its role in the election and impeachment of the Head of the State as well as in the removal of the incumbents of high offices under the Constitution, its constituent powers, and its powers during an emergency testify to the fact of its pre-eminence. Nevertheless, it is also a fact that even the Legislature has to function within the boundaries of its allotted sphere by the Constitution. All the laws, whether Union, State or delegated, are subject to the doctrine of *ultra vires* and, of course, judicial review.

As you all know, the framers of our Constitution had taken utmost care to ensure an independent and impartial Judiciary as an interpreter of the Constitution and the custodian of the rights of the citizens. The courts have the mandate to interpret the law; however, they are not to enter into a discussion as to what the law should be. The scope of judicial review is confined to see whether the impugned legislation falls within the competence of the Legislature or is consistent with the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution or other mandatory provisions as provided for in the Constitution.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that barring certain occasions, both the Legislature and the Judiciary have consistently functioned within the prescribed limits and in harmony with each another.

It is equally important to keep in mind that the Constitution is a document which acquires life and blood when its provisions are put to practice by different institutions in relation to various forces prevalent

practice by different institutions in relation to various forces prevalent in our system. Some time or the other, certain issues which detract from the usual position of harmonious relations are bound to occur, especially in a thriving democracy with multifarious problems like ours. The major issues on which differences between the Legislature and the Judiciary have cropped up over the last five decades, are those relating to the powers of the courts to review the laws passed by the Legislatures, interference in the proceedings of the Legislatures, issues concerning Parliamentary privileges and the operation of the Anti-Defection Law and also of the administration of the Legislature Secretariats. Yet, even in dealing with such instances, the centrality of the Constitution has prevailed, which speaks of the efficacy of our constitutional scheme.

As Presiding Officers, you are all aware that the Legislature is the sole guardian and judge in all matters relating to its proceedings and privileges. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, its procedure and conduct of business, each House of the Parliament and that of the State Legislatures is empowered to regulate its own procedure and the conduct of business under articles 118 and 208, respectively. It is an inherent and exclusive authority and the courts have no power to interfere with such rules or their administration, unless there is a contravention of the provisions of the Constitution. It has specifically been provided under articles 122 and 212 that the validity of any proceedings in the Parliament or the State Legislatures shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure. Further, it is specifically provided that no officer or member of the Parliament, State Legislature in whom powers are vested by the Constitution for regulating procedure or conduct of business, or for maintaining order, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise of those powers. Moreover, under articles 105 and 194, the Constitution guarantees immunity from proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given in the House of the Parliament, Legislature or any Committee thereof.

All these Constitutional provisions symbolize the supremacy of the Legislature within its own sphere of activity. To my mind, the underlying object behind these powers, privileges and immunities is to protect and preserve the freedom, authority and dignity of the Legislature and its members.

By and large, as per the Constitutional mandate, the courts in India have exercised restraint and recognised the immunity of Parliamentary proceedings from being called in question in the courts of law. Way back in 1954, in the case of *Raj Narain Singh* v. *Atmaram Govind Kher*, the Allahabad High Court had held:

> ".... this Court is not, in any sense whatever a court of appeal or revision against the Legislature or against the rulings of the Speaker who, as the holder of an office of the highest distinction, has the sole responsibility cast upon him of maintaining the prestige and dignity of the House."
>
> ".... this Court has no jurisdiction to issue a writ, direction or order relating to a matter which affected the internal affairs of the House."

In the *M.S.M. Sharma Case of 1960*, the Apex Court had categorically upheld the sovereignty of the Legislature in matters pertaining to the power to conduct its own business. The Supreme Court held:

> "The validity of the proceedings inside the Legislature of a State cannot be called in question on the allegation that the procedure laid down by the law had not been strictly followed. No Court can go into the questions which are within the special jurisdiction of the Legislature itself, which has the power to conduct its own business. The Legislature has the jurisdiction to control the publication of its proceedings and to go into the question whether there has been any breach of its privileges, and the Legislature is vested with complete jurisdiction to carry on its proceedings in accordance with its rules of business. Even though it may not have strictly complied with the requirements of the procedural law laid down for conducting its business, that cannot be a ground for interference by this Court under article 32 of the Constitution. Courts have always recognised the basic difference between complete want of jurisdiction and improper or irregular exercise of jurisdiction. Mere non-compliance with rules of procedure cannot be a ground for issuing a writ under article 32 of the Constitution."

In 1970, the Supreme Court upheld the Constitutional guarantee with regard to immunity of parliamentary proceedings in respect of anything said in the House or any Committee thereof and 'anything' has been held to be equivalent to 'everything' in *Tej Kiran Jain* v. *N. Sanjiva Reddy* (AIR 1970 SC 1573).

The issue whether parliamentary proceedings are immune or not has been further reinforced by the verdict of the Supreme Court relating to the impeachment proceedings of Justice V. Ramaswami (Writ Petition No. 216 of 1993), a Judge of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court held that the Parliament is sovereign with respect to the conduct of its own business and the courts cannot have any say in that. Delivering its judgement in that case, the Court upheld the verdict given by it in the case of *Tej Kiran* v. *N. Sanjiva Reddy,* (AIR 1970 SC 1573). The Supreme

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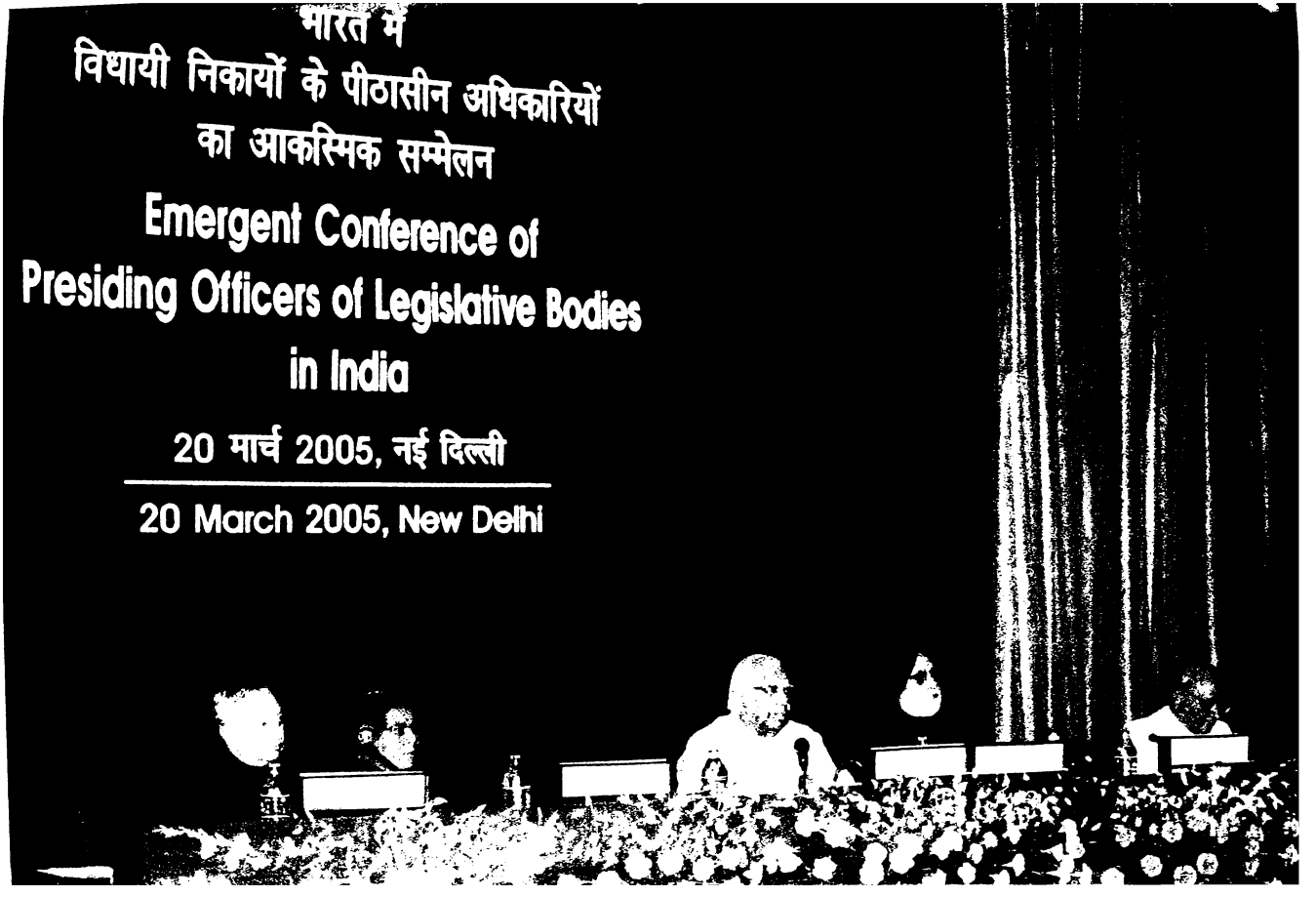
विधायी निकायों के पीठासीन अधिकारियों का आकस्मिक सम्मेलन

Emergent Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India

20 मार्च 2005, नई दिल्ली

20 March 2005, New Delhi



Court held that it is the essence of parliamentary system of Government that people's representatives should be free to express themselves without fear of legal consequences. What they say is only subject to the discipline of the Rules of Procedure, the good sense of the members and the control of proceedings by the Speaker. The courts have no say in the matter and should really have none.

In this context, we may also note the observations made by some of the leading lawyers of our country.

Shri Fali S. Nariman, an eminent member of Parliament and one of the outstanding lawyers of our country has in an article referred to the Order of the Supreme Court dated 9 March, 2005 and has observed as follows:

> "This is where the order of the Supreme Court is (with great respect) to be faulted—the delicate balance of powers in our Constitution has been disturbed. To me, the order of 9 March serves as a (disturbing) precedent for Courts—in the future—not only the Supreme Court but also any High Court—to direct how proceedings of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha or the State Assemblies should or should not be conducted by its Presiding Officers. ...Theoretically speaking, the order of 9 March is a sufficient precedent for the Courts (the Supreme Court or any High Court) to direct who should administer oath to the members of Parliament, and as to when a Session of Parliament should meet and continue meeting, as to what should be the agenda and as to when directions should be issued for a vote (whether a vote of confidence or otherwise) to be taken on the floor of the Lok Sabha. It would also serve as a precedent for the Courts (including the Supreme Court or any High Court) for issuing directions as to when the result of any vote taken inside the House should be announced. Besides, the order of a Court could take the place of the customary summons of the President (to members) as to when the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha is to meet and for what purpose. What was done for a Legislative Assembly could obviously be replicated—for the Parliament. This is why a Presidential Reference was called for, particularly because the Supreme Court order had (unconsciously) overlooked and ignored binding precedents in landmark cases—Keshav Singh's case (1975) (Bench of 7 Judges) and in the case of Kihoto Hollahan (Bench of 5 Judges): the latter had clearly established that proceedings inside the State Legislatures cannot be dictated to by the Courts, nor called in question by the Courts; even when they have not been conducted in accordance with the Rules of Business of the House.... Could

> the conduct of a Judge of the Supreme or High Court or their judgements be discussed or criticized inside the House (of a State Legislature or of Parliament). God forbid, no—but why not? Only because of the balancing boundary provision—article 211 *qua* State Legislature and article 121 *qua* Parliament (discussion inside the Houses of any judgement or conduct or any Judge of the Superior Judiciary is Constitutionally prohibited). The great organs of the State are by Constitutional diktat left supreme in their own respective spheres. That is only because the supreme document of governance—the document that binds the Courts, the Parliament and the State Legislatures is above them all—the Constitution, is on a pedestal (as it were) proclaiming to one and all that "how so ever high you be the Constitution is above you".

Shri K.N. Bhat, another leading Advocate of the Supreme Court, while referring to the order of 9 March 2005, has observed as follows:

> "By all accounts, the Court took over the functions of the Governor and the Speaker—in fact the whole legislative process. Describing this as an invasion into the precincts of the House may not be an unpardonable exaggerations.... The Constitution is what the court says it is. The court can declare any action of the Governor or that of the Speaker as being unconstitutional. But can it direct the Speaker to act in a particular manner—say video-record the proceedings and to report to the court? And what if the Speaker refuses to obey?"

Shri Rajeev Dhavan, another Senior Lawyer, in his article published in *The Hindu* on 18 March 2005 has observed as follows:

> "No Constitution can function if the autonomy of each of the organs of the Government—the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary–is not respected. ... Although the tasks of governance cannot be put in watertight compartments, the Indian Constitution respects the comity amongst these great institutions by laying down that the courts cannot inquire into the validity of the proceedings of the Legislatures (articles 122 and 212), the Legislatures cannot discuss the conduct of a Judge of the High Court or the Supreme Court except in matters of impeachment (article 121 and 211), and the President and Governors enjoy immunity from court proceedings (article 361)... This composite direction of the Supreme Court has given rise to considerable controversy. Speakers are concerned that the Judiciary should not interfere with the internal proceedings of the House and tell them how to conduct its affairs. Suppose, the Chief Minister wanted not just a vote but a full-fledged debate. Indeed Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee obtained just that for his ill-fated

> 13 days' Government in 1996. Was it not for the Governor to adjudge whether the House should be called later in the light of various events. ... Should the agenda of the Legislature have been determined by the Supreme Court? Could the administration have been ordered to keep order in the House?"
>
> According to him:
>
> "This raises important issues relating to separation of powers. If the Court felt that something needed to be done, it could have asked the Governor to reconsider the matter. Instead, the Court substituted its own discretion for that of the Governor. Earlier cases from the High Courts of the Calcutta (1968), Guwahati (1982), Madras (1989) and Patna (1999) suggest that the Governor's discretion be respected. In the Jharkhand case, the Court's directions were constitutionally invasive of the Legislature's working. These things are not 'judicially manageable'. Suppose the Legislature had not carried out these directions, what would the Court have done? As it happens, Mr. Soren resigned. But suppose he had not? Would the Court have held a large number of legislators as well as the *Pro-tern* Speaker in contempt?... The famous decision of the U.S. Chief Justice John Marshal in the Marbury versus Madison case in 1804 is reputedly an example of judicial craftsmanship. In that the Supreme Court asserted its power without risking its orders not being obeyed. The Judiciary is the custodian of the Constitution and must prevent it from being abused. But, if the principles of comity on which the balanced working of the Constitution depends are upset, the authority of the Constitution and its prime custodian may well be hurt in the process. The Supreme Court's orders in the Jharkhand case should not be treated as a precedent"

I believe that in the Interim Order of 9 March 2005 of the Honourable Supreme Court, the contours of the area of the supremacy of the Legislature have been blurred. You are all aware of the details and developments of the case. The points of reservations are, in fact, in regard to some basic thrust of the Supreme Court Order which has resulted in the Judiciary entering into the well-defined areas of jurisdiction within the purview of the Legislature. The major issues before us now, are of grave concern and need serious consideration and resolution. Those are, whether the Court has any right to issue directions, as has been done in the present case, for advancing the Session of the Legislature for a Vote of Confidence; fixing its one-point agenda to have a floor test; directing the *Pro-tem* Speaker to announce the results faithfully and truthfully; making that the Court's order was to be construed as constituting a notice to the members regarding the meeting of the

Assembly; directing the Chief Secretary and Director-General of Police to see that all the elected members of the Assembly, freely, safely and securely, attend the Session and no interference or hindrance is caused by anyone therein; and ordering the video-recording of the proceedings with a direction to send a copy of the same to the Court, etc.

To my mind, the order has got serious implications, whereby the contours of the areas of supremacy of the two institutions have got distorted, disturbing the balance of the whole constitutional scheme of governance. With all respect to the Honourable Supreme Court, I am of the view that the very principle of separation of powers, which is one of the 'basic features' of our governance, has been violated. Here, I would like to draw your attention to what Dr. Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar, who along with Shri K.M. Munshi, Dr. B.N. Rau and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar played a prominent role in drafting the provisions relating to the Judiciary, had to say on the matter:

> "While there can be no two opinions on the need for the maintenance of judicial independence, both for safeguarding of individual liberty and the proper working of the Constitution, it is also necessary to keep in view one important principle. The doctrine of independence is not raised to the level of a dogma so as to enable the Judiciary to function as a kind of super-Legislature or super-Executive. The Judiciary is there to interpret the Constitution or adjudicate upon the rights between the parties concerned. ... The Judiciary as much as the Congress (Legislature) and the Executive is depending for its proper function upon the cooperation of the other two".

In this context, some may refer to the order of the Supreme Court in the case of *Jagdambika Pal* v. *Union of India, AIR 1998 SC 998* in which the Supreme Court ordered a Special Session of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly with the only agenda for conducting a 'Composite Floor-Test' to decide upon the question as to who among the two claimants to the post of the Chief Minister enjoyed the majority support of the House. The Court ordered peaceful conduct of the proceedings and that the result of the test be announced by the Speaker faithfully and truthfully. Besides interference with the powers and privileges of the Legislature, the Composite Floor-test was a totally new device created by the Court which in fact is the prerogative of the Legislature. The Rules of Procedure of the Legislature nowhere provides for such a test.

However, it may be noted that the Order of the Supreme Court in Jagdambika Pal's case was not a speaking order and no reasons were given in support of the same. It does not appear that the attention of

the Honourable Supreme Court was drawn to the provisions of article 212 of the Constitution of India nor it appears that any contrary contention was put forward. Thus, very humbly I submit that such an order cannot be created as a decision on the entire gamut of the principles of separation of powers, as clearly enshrined in articles 122 and 212 of the Constitution of India and also in a article 361 thereof or as a precedent. In any event, now that the question has come up before us for consideration, I feel it is our duty to give our serious thought to the same, so that, as responsible constitutional functionaries, we can give our considered view for future harmonious working of the different organs of India under the Constitution.

This is not the first time that the relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary concerning this area is being discussed at the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies. In the past too, the matter has, time and again, been deliberated in one context or the other, always stressing the imperative of co-operative relations between the two institutions. The Conference held in January 1965 deliberated the issue at length and resolved, *inter alia*, that suitable amendments to articles 105 and 194 should be made in order to make the intention of the Constitution makers clear beyond doubt so that the powers, privileges and immunities of the Legislatures, their members and Committees could not, in any case be construed as being subject or subordinate to any other Articles of the Constitution.

The matter also came up for discussion at the Emergent Conference of the Presiding Officers held in April, 1984. The Conference reiterated the supremacy of the Legislature under the Constitution and faith in the independence of the Judiciary and resolved *inter alia* that the rules framed under articles 118 and 208 are not subject to scrutiny by any court of law and the provision regarding their being subject to the Constitutional provisions refers to only those regarding Rules of Procedure enshrined in the Constitution and not to any other provisions; that mutual trust and respect must exist between the Legislatures and the courts, each recognising the independence, dignity and Jurisdiction of the other in as much as their roles are complementary to each other; and that, if necessary, an amendment might be made in the Constitution so as to place the position beyond all shadow of doubt.

Consequent upon the decision at the Presiding Officer's Conference held in 1993, a Committee of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, the Honourable Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, to

examine and report on measures to promote harmonious relations between the Legislature and the Judiciary. The Committee had identified four main zones of conflict between the Legislature and the Judiciary, of which interference in the proceedings of the Parliament/Legislatures was one of the issues. Having carefully considered the various aspects involved, the Committee emphasised the need to strengthen the relations between the Legislature and the Judiciary. It was felt that the Constitution has prescribed specific duties and responsibilities to the Legislature and the Judiciary, and their roles are intended to be complementary to each other. The Committee also stressed that it would be in the best interests of the democracy if both function with mutual trust and respect, each recognising the independence, dignity and jurisdiction of the other.

As regards the proceedings of the Parliament/Legislatures, the Committee observed that under articles 118 and 208, each House of the Parliament/State Legislatures has the right to frame rules for regulating subject to the provisions of the Constitution, its procedure and conduct of its business. In the opinion of the Committee, the question of proceedings of Legislatures in a parliamentary democracy essentially presupposes the supremacy of the Legislatures in their own sphere. Hence, the Legislatures need to have their essential freedom to conduct their business with due dignity, decorum and independence. The Committee, therefore, recommended that subject to the limits stipulated by the Constitution, the Legislature should have complete freedom in matters of procedure and the conduct of business of their respective House. However, the Committee did not take recourse to a blanket opinion that the courts in India should not go into the proceedings of the Legislatures. The Committee observed that in India the Legislature is as much bound by the provisions of the Constitution as the Judiciary is. As per the constitutional system, it is the Legislature that makes the law while the Judiciary interprets them and can also see if the laws are within the ambit of the constitutional provisions or not. Therefore, this is not the first meeting of this Conference which had been called to discuss this issue.

In the wake of the Apex Court's orders in the Jharkhand case, my humble but considered view is that we are once again confronted with an unfortunate situation. The issues arising out of the interim order of the Supreme Court in the Case are of such far reaching ambit that if not reconsidered and if followed in future, it will upset the constitutional balance and the democratic functioning of the State as a whole. This is a matter which should be looked into transcending all political ideologies and topical developments.

One may raise the question about what could be the possible implementation of the interim order of the Honourable Supreme Court passed on 9 March 2005. One would like to know that if the Court had considered that there was a violation of the order, would the Speaker or the members of the Legislature be held guilty of the contempt of the Supreme Court? Would the Judiciary have been able to deal with such a situation? Whether the Speaker could be summoned before the Supreme Court for having exercised his authority under the Constitution of India? Would the Speaker be liable to submit to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court? How would the members of the Legislature be treated for alleged contempt of the Court? Would the Supreme Court have directed the arrest and detention of the Speaker and members of the Jharkhand Legislature? As clearly there was disturbance, was it the violation of the order of the Supreme Court on the part of the members of the Legislature against whom no order was issued? Can a Speaker of any Legislature be held answerable for not being able to transact the proceedings of the House, if members of the Legislature indulge in indiscipline only with a view to disturb the proceedings? The Presiding Officers of the Legislature have their own problems in controlling the proceedings and then to be directed by the Court of law to discharge its functions in a given manner, would create wholly unworkable and unacceptable situation. How could the executive authorities like the Chief Secretary of the State Government or Police officials be able to maintain the order, arrange for the presence of the legislators and for their coming inside the House? In effect, if allowed, they would substitute the Presiding Officer in the matter of maintenance of discipline.

Let me once again emphasise here that this Emergent Conference is not and cannot be concerned with the political issues and questions relating to the State of Jharkhand nor is it concerned with the applicability of the Order of the Honourable Supreme Court dated 9 March 2005 insofar as the State Legislative Assembly is concerned. The Order of the Honourable Supreme Court was assumed to be binding on the parties to the dispute unless and until the Honourable Court directed otherwise. The Conference is and will not be concerned with the merits of any political controversy or with what had happened in Jharkhand prior to or subsequent to the passing of the Order on 9 March 2005.

I had issued a Statement as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha after the meeting, which I held with the Honourable Leaders of the Parties on 10 March 2005. It was stated by me, after taking the views of the Leaders, who by a preponderant majority expressed gravest concern at the order of the Honourable Supreme Court, that the Legislatures should

seriously consider the consequences of, what may be termed as, encroachment upon their authority and jurisdiction. It is necessary that the Legislatures' supremacy as enshrined in the Constitution should be clearly asserted. This is a matter, which should be looked into transcending all political formations and topical developments. As such, I appeal to all to consider the important issue with all seriousness and concern, so that the Constitutional balance can be and is restored. In my opinion, as has been suggested by many Honourable Leaders, to resolve all questions, the Respected President may be requested—that was an option—to seek the Opinion of the Honourable Supreme Court under article 143 of the Constitution.

It was strange to say the least, that my statement could have been construed as an interference with the Order of the Supreme Court or having contended for stay or nullification thereof or of inviting anyone to ignore the same. Obviously, the Order would have its effect, whether implementable or not. The reference to seek the advisory opinion of the Honourable Supreme Court under article 143 of the Constitution was mentioned as a possible method of the resolution of the questions raised, as had been suggested by many Honourable Leaders. If there was any disrespect shown or intended to be shown to the Honourable Supreme Court, which is strongly denied, then obviously, one would not have pleaded for obtaining the opinion of the Honourable Supreme Court itself. It is entirely for the Respected Rashtrapatiji, on the advice of the Government, to decide whether to seek such opinion or not. But that does not mean that the question raised is not important or should not be seriously looked into. My appeal to all is to consider this matter dispassionately, only on the basis of the country's constitutional set up without any reference whatsoever to any political controversy, so that one of the most important basic features of our Constitution, namely, Separation of Powers is not disturbed, seriously affecting the balance of powers, as enshrined in the Constitution.

I appeal to all of you to consider the issue detached from all political questions with all seriousness so that the constitutional position is re-affirmed and, in the process, further cement the relationship between the two pillars of our democracy, namely, the Legislature and the Judiciary.

I seek your considered views on the matter and I am sure our constitutional scheme will stand to benefit from your words of wisdom.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

3

ADDRESSES AT THE CONFERMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN AWARDS 1999, 2000, 2001 AND 2002

A function to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the year 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, was held on 21 March 2005 in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam presented the Awards to Sarvashri Lal Krishna Advani, Arjun Singh, Jaswant Singh and Dr. Manmohan Singh for the year 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra read out the Citations in respect of the Outstanding Parliamentarians. The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam; the Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Distinguished Awardees addressed the function.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

–Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Up-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Prime Minister, Distinguished Recipients of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards, Honourable Members of Parliament and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured to welcome you all in this historic Central Hall of our Parliament to this function to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 1999 to 2002. On behalf of the Indian Parliamentary Group and on my own behalf, I express my profound gratitude to respected *Rashtrapatiji,* Honourable *Up-Rashtrapatiji* and Honourable Prime Minister, who is also one of the recipients of the Award, and also the other distinguished recipients of the Award for gracing this occasion. I deeply value the kind consent of our esteemed *Rashtrapatiji* to confer the Awards and address this gathering.

I take this opportunity to heartily congratulate Shri Lal Krishna

Advaniji, Shri Arjun Singhji, Shri Jaswant Singhji and Dr. Manmohan Singhji on their being chosen for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the year 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively. Their choice, in fact, enhances the prestige of the Award substantially We are deeply beholden to them that they have honoured the nomination made by their own peers. It is a matter of great pleasure for me to welcome these Outstanding Parliamentarians to today's function.

Instituted by the Indian Parliamentary Group, the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award is bestowed on parliamentarians of great eminence for their long-standing contribution towards strengthening our parliamentary edifice. The Award, in a way, also acknowledges the pre-eminence of democracy as a way of life in our country which should be preserved and protected. It also recognizes that democracy needs to be nurtured with discipline and decorum, respecting the primacy of the will of the people at all times and in the service of the people.

All through our parliamentary history, we have had very eminent parliamentarians who enriched our democracy and our parliamentary culture. Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Union Minister Shri Arjun Singh, and Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Shri L.K. Advani and Shri Jaswant Singh, respectively, have lived up to this illustrious tradition. Their varied contributions, over the years, have been of great significance in shaping and guiding the destiny of our policy as the largest working democracy in the world. By their dignified conduct in and outside the Parliament and unwavering commitment to parliamentary democracy, they have earned the respect and esteem of the parliamentary fraternity everywhere.

Throughout their public life, these Outstanding Parliamentarians have served the nation and the Parliament well, irrespective of whether they held any office or not. In fact, it is a tribute to our parliamentary democracy that today we are honouring, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Upper House, Leaders of Opposition in the two Houses of our Parliament and a Union Minister who has also been a Leader of the popular House in the past, as Outstanding Parliamentarians. By conferring the Award on these eminent leaders, we are, indeed, honouring our democratic temperament and democracy itself.

Shri Lal Krishna Advani, who has been bestowed the Award for the year 1999, is known for his gracious demeanour and steely determination. He has been a leading figure in Indian politics for long, with a parliamentary career of over three decades. With his clarity of vision and astute

analytical ability, he has elevated parliamentary politics to great heights. Highly committed to principles and values, he has a sound understanding of the challenges before the nation. Endowed with exceptional leadership qualities, he has held senior positions in Government, including that of the office of the Deputy Prime Minister of India. Lal Krishna Advaniji is undoubtedly a sturdy pillar of strength of our parliamentary democracy.

Arjun Singhji, who has befittingly been chosen for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2000, has always been a formidable leader in Indian politics, earning admiration from far and wide for his remarkable political acumen and administrative skills. Widely acknowledged as a staunch votary of a secular and democratic India, he has excelled in public life as a legislator, Minister and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, as the Governor of Punjab, and as a Minister at the Centre, holding key portfolios. By his forthright articulation of causes dear to his heart and forceful presentation of issues in perspective, he has carved out a niche for himself in our parliamentary life.

Shri Jaswant Singh, who has been conferred the Award for the year 2001, is yet another important figure in the political firmament of our country. An erudite scholar and a splendid combination of the best of both tradition and modernity, he is frank and forthright in his political views. Throughout his long and illustrious career as a member of Parliament, he has enriched our parliamentary proceedings as a brilliant speaker with well-reasoned arguments and seasoned expostulations on a wide array of issues. He has also played a distinctive role in strengthening our Committee system, having been Chairman of various important Committees of our Parliament. He has shouldered with distinction onerous responsibilities in the Government, holding prominent ministerial positions.

The Indian Parliamentary Group has conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2002 on Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India who is also one of the most well-known economists of the country. His is a classic example of the finest virtues of clean and value-based politics. Suave and soft spoken, he is unassuming in his demeanour but firm and bold in his decisions. He believes in the politics of consensus and has a very scholarly and pragmatic approach towards his missions in life. His role in ushering in an era of economic reforms with a human face and without compromising on the national interest is recognised worldwide. He has

ceaselessly strived for an India with capable and empowered human resource, an India which is modern and rational in outlook and an India which actively engages itself with assurance and confidence with the rest of the world. Dedicated to the cause of the people, in Dr. Manmohan Singh we have a Prime Minister as also an acclaimed democrat and a fine human being who leads the country with firmness and vision.

Friends, Parliament is the centre stage of the nation where we witness democracy, with all its pitfalls, in action. It is here that the common good of society is debated, articulated and transformed into policy decisions. As elected representatives of the people, we, the parliamentarians, are looked upon as living symbols of character and integrity. It is our conviction and commitment to this belief the people have in us that would make or mar the credibility of the Parliament, rather our parliamentary system itself. In this backdrop, it becomes essential that the precious time of the supreme institution of the land is utilised judiciously to further people's genuine interests and in a manner helping to enhance India's treasured position as the largest democracy in the world.

Less than a year ago, we came through yet another massive electoral exercise through which the people of India bestowed their faith in us and sent us to this august institution to articulate their concerns and considerations and to provide effective leadership in addressing them. We have among us a large number of new and young members. The people of the country, the legislators in our States and the people's representatives at other levels look up to us for inspiration. We, therefore, need to constantly strive to live up to the expectations of our people and bring more honour to our elected bodies.

With these words, I, once again, heartily congratulate Dr. Manmohan Singhji, Advaniji, Arjun Singhji, and Jaswant Singhji from the core of my heart. I am sure that they will continue to distinguish our public life and parliamentary system with their selfless work in the service of the people.

Thank you very much.

Subsequently, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards, 1999 on Shri Lal Krishna Advani.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 1999
PRESENTED
TO
SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI, M.P.
BY
THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI has been an illustrious leader of modern India, dignifying our public life for nearly half a century. A fearless nationalist, peerless parliamentarian and visionary statesman, he has enriched our parliamentary democracy with his sterling qualities and exceptional calibre. He has endeared himself to one and all through his tireless advocacy of the cause of a progressive, developed and self-reliant India.

Entering the portals of the Indian Parliament in 1970, SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI has, over the years, graced our parliamentary life with his learned presentations and reasoned arguments on various issues before the nation. His remarkable oratorical skill, coupled with his exemplary analytical approach to events and developments, has earned him the respect and admiration of all sections of political opinion. Through his effective and purposive use of various parliamentary devices, SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI has meaningfully articulated the aspirations, ambitions and even apprehensions of our vast populace in the supreme legislative institution of the country. Both Houses of Parliament have been witness to his admirable performance.

For SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI, politics has not been a profession; rather, it has been a passion to shape a glorious future for the nation as a whole. That vision is of an India, holding its head high as a leader among the comity of nations. This passion, and this vision, have both been articulated by him with consummate skill and pristine clarity in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. His courage of conviction, steely determination and single-mindedness of purpose have indeed been legendary. Never one to despair in times of crises, he has ever brought his rich and varied experience to strengthen the national resolve to surmount the challenges before the country. Starting as a Member of Parliament, and later as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, as Union Minister, as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, as the Deputy Prime Minister of India, and presently, as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI has endeavoured ceaselessly to realize his passion for, and vision of India of his dreams. His down-to-earth assessment of evolving situations, inestimable negotiating skills and abiding respect for others' points of view have left an indelible imprint of his personality on the various positions and offices he has occupied over the years.

It is most befitting that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow its Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 1999 on this sagacious leader and celebrated parliamentarian SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI.

Indian Parliamentary Group,
Parliament House,
New Delhi

March 21, 2005
Phalguna 30, 1926 (Saka)

The President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam then Conferred the Award on Shri Lal Krishna Advani.

ADDRESS BY SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI

I had never imagined of speaking here. I had just thought that I shall be presented award and shall depart after giving thanks and expressing gratitude. I want to express my gratitude to Indian Parliamentary Group. I believe that Outstanding Parliamentarian Award is mainly given on the basis of seniority and not on the basis of excellence. Therefore, if this award is renamed as Senior Parliamentarian Award, the senior most members will get this honour turn by turn.

Sir, I have been a member of Parliament since 1970. I have been a member of the Rajya Sabha as well as of the Lok Sabha. I do believe that on being elected as a member, one becomes very important in India. This is felt by one and all. I would like to let my fellow parliamentarians understand that membership of Parliament of India, besides giving us importance, provides a great opportunity which one cannot avail in any other field. I remember the past years when Shri Bhupesh Gupta, Shri Piloo Modi adorned Rajya Sabha and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Shri Madhu Limaye, Shri Hiren Mukherji and Dr. S.P. Mookerjee Lok Sabha. This is a rare forum where you can interact with great minds and dedicated souls. We should constantly ponder over as to how much we are able to reap the benefits of this opportunity of being elected as member of Parliament. There are few libraries that are so rich like ours which we use. There are very few Presiding Officers in whose contact one knows the true nature of democracy.

Sir, I would also like to state at this opportunity that normally people do not have good opinion about the Government departments but if they come and observe the functioning of Parliament Secretariat they will have to change their opinion that this department is different from other departments. I am mentioning all this because if being a member of Parliament gives us importance, it also provides us an opportunity; no one should be deprived of that. With this request I, once again, thank you for honouring me.

The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra, then read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2000 on Shri Arjun Singh.

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* Original in Hindi

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 2000

PRESENTED

TO

SHRI ARJUN SINGH, M.P.

BY

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI ARJUN SINGH has been a leading public figure in the national firmament lending lustre to our political life through his varied accomplishments. A brilliant parliamentarian of long standing, a committed nationalist, an acclaimed administrator and a famed orator, he has strived ceaselessly for over five decades to strengthen our national fabric and parliamentary edifice.

With his rich and diverse experience in public life SHRI ARJUN SINGH has contributed immeasurably towards the national cause, earning admiration and approbation from one and all. A staunch votary of secularism and national integration, he has always used and continues to use every possible forum to raise his powerful voice to further concretize the secular-democratic character of the nation. SHRI ARJUN SINGH has a rare sensitivity to the travails of the common man, and is driven by a clear vision and a deep commitment to uplift the deprived and the downtrodden economically and socially. Endowed with exceptional leadership qualities and administrative acumen, he has accomplished many challenging tasks and helped in resolving several crucial issues in his varied roles as a Chief Minister, as a Governor and as a Union Cabinet Minister.

A seasoned parliamentarian, SHRI ARJUN SINGH has carved out a niche for himself in our parliamentary life. As a member of the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and later of Parliament, he has played a key role in strengthening our parliamentary values. He also adorned the seat of the Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha. An orator *par excellence*, with an abiding faith in the parliamentary system, its traditions, customs and conventions. SHRI ARJUN SINGH has always been lucid in his expositions on a wide spectrum of issues before the nation. He has an enviable parliamentary record as a committed people's representative in ardently championing their causes and articulating their hopes and aspirations. His varied experience, great intellectual capabilities, and informed and meaningful participation in the proceedings of Parliament have gone a long way in enhancing the content of parliamentary debates in our country.

Given his political stature, distinguished parliamentary career and rich contribution to public life, it is only appropriate that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2000 on SHRI ARJUN SINGH.

Indian Parliamentary Group,
Parliament House,
New Delhi

March 21, 2005
Phalguna 30, 1926 (Saka)

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam then Conferred the Award on Shri Arjun Singh.

ADDRESS BY SHRI ARJUN SINGH

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Respected Uprashtrapatiji, Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Speaker, Respected Congress President Shrimati Sonia Gandhi:

Forty-three years ago, I entered the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in 1957. Since then, I have always marvelled at the majesty of the democratic process which the founding fathers of our Constitution adopted for our country. It is only because of this democratic process that common people like me have been able to serve the country in their own limited manner.

I would like to say only this much that the challenges today for our democracy arise from any quarters, which in fact, were present even when our democracy came into existence in 1947. These challenges have been met with determination and a clear understanding because if we succumb to those forces we will extinguish common view, belief and conviction which will ultimately lead India into a dark age. We cannot allow this to happen. Somebody once asked me: What have you learnt in the Assembly or the Parliament? I can only answer that I have learnt with humility how to get along with fellow human beings. I humbly thank the Honourable Speaker to have listed my name in this role of honour and I consider myself as the child of the House. With these words, I humbly request the Honourable President to keep blessing us, and the computer he has given to me, I assure him, I can make best use of the same.

The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra, then read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2001 on Shri Jaswant Singh.

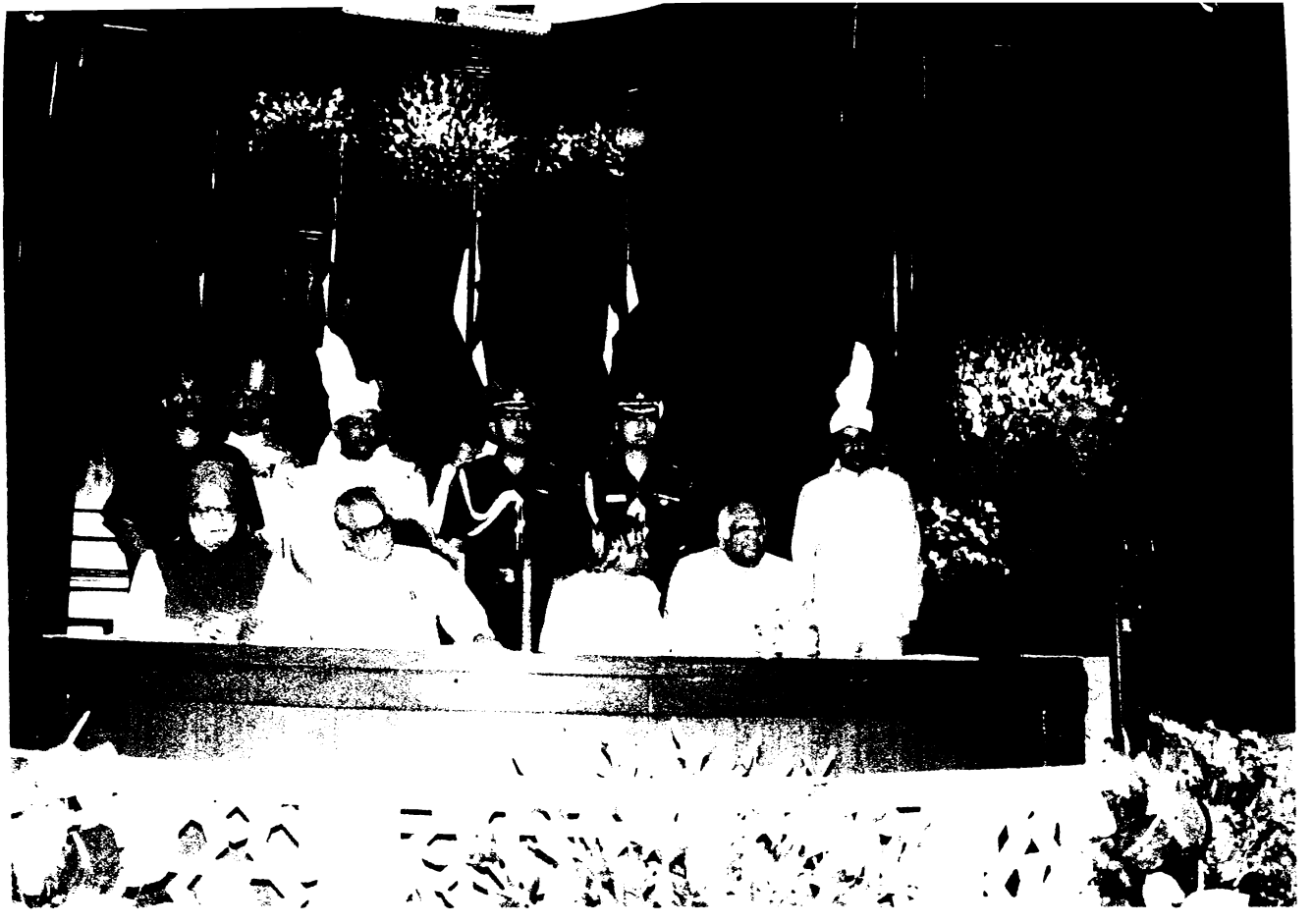
The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam conferring the Award on Shri Lal Krishna Advani

The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri Lal Krishna Advani addressing the distinguished gathering

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam conferring the Award on Shri Arjun Singh

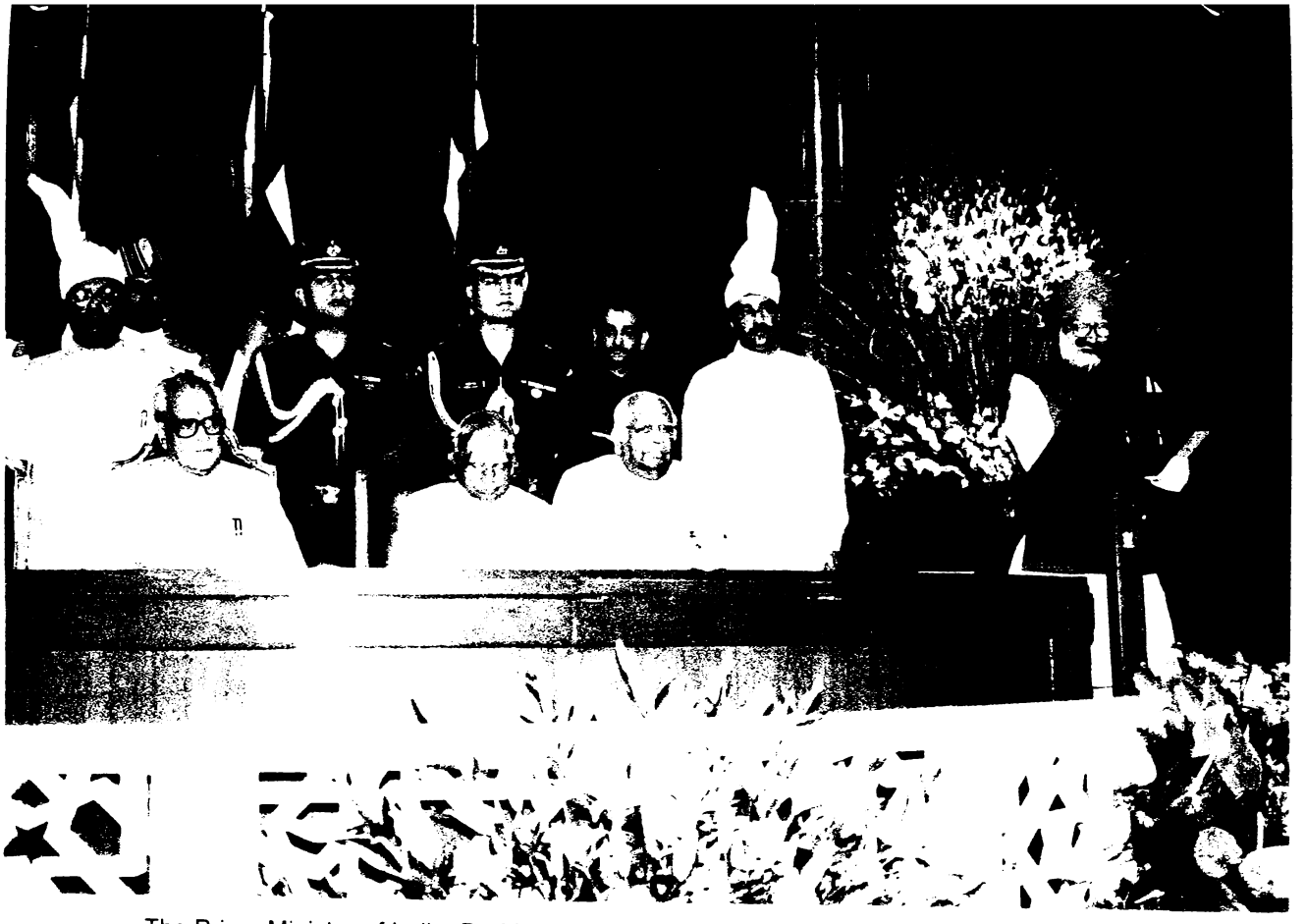
The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh addressing the distinguished gathering

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam conferring the Award on Shri Jaswant Singh



The Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh addressing the distinguished gathering

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam conferring the Award on Dr. Manmohan Singh



The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the distinguished gathering

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat delivering his address

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam delivering his address

A view of the audience attending the ceremony

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 2001
PRESENTED
TO
SHRI JASWANT SINGH, M.P.
BY
THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI JASWANT SINGH has been a distinguished leader in our nation's public life for more than two decades. A verily multi-faceted personality, he is an eminent parliamentarian, skillful administrator, powerful orator as also a perceptive and prolific writer. All through his famed political career, he has ceaselessly served the nation and the people with indefatigable zeal and unwavering commitment.

Ever since he entered the Parliament as a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1980, SHRI JASWANT SINGH has contributed substantially towards strengthening the foundations of our parliamentary democracy and, indeed, the national life as a whole. He is admired and respected by all for his transparent sincerity, profound scholarship and utmost commitment to democratic traditions and conventions. An ardent patriot, he has espoused from time to time, with remarkable dexterity, various national causes. He has been an extremely self-assured, extraordinarily articulate and exceptionally knowledgeable spokesperson for the country in several multilateral conferences and international organizations. As a Union Cabinet Minister holding key portfolios, he played a significant role in conceptualising and implementing many important public policies for the realization of lofty national goals.

As a parliamentarian, SHRI JASWANT SINGH is outstanding by any yardstick, having served in both the Houses of Parliament. Whether in the Government or in the Opposition, he has lent a rare distinction to our parliamentary life. As Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha for a time and presently as the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House, he has put his remarkable parliamentary acumen to the best use. With his innate and inherent regard for parliamentary etiquette, customs, conventions and traditions, he has made immense contributions in upholding the collective dignity of the supreme representative institution of the land. He has enlivened and enriched the proceedings of Parliament with his well-reasoned and compelling expositions on a wide range of issues. His thorough understanding of parliamentary rules and procedure, his adherence to the high norms of conduct in and outside the Parliament and his razor-sharp intellect and brilliant debating skills make him a parliamentarian *par excellence.*

Given his illustrious parliamentary career and exemplary contribution to our public life, it is only appropriate that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2001 on SHRI JASWANT SINGH.

Indian Parliamentary Group,
Parliament House,
New Delhi

March 21, 2005
Phalguna 30, 1926 (Saka)

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam then conferred the Award on Shri Jaswant Singh.

ADDRESS BY SHRI JASWANT SINGH

Maha Mahim Rashtrapatiji, Maha Mahim Up-Rashtrapatiji, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Speaker Sahib, and my parliamentary colleagues:

It is a very rare honour and I am mindful of the honour. I am grateful to the Indian Parliamentary Group to have decided to confer this distinction upon me. I must admit to being a bit intrigued as to how I fit into this distinguished company of my seniors, Advaniji or Arjun Singhji or Dr. Manmohan Singh.

I stand nowhere in comparison to the virtues they possess. His Excellency the President, Honourable Speaker Saheb and Honourable Vice-President, I have been fortunate to sit several times in this Hall and ponder over. In this Hall one can hear the echo of the historic day when India achieved Independence. I have been given only five minutes to speak. So, I would like to mention two-three important points. Firstly, if we start listening to that echo once again, we would be able to understand the importance of this grand Hall. Secondly, we have codified our rights during the last 50-52 years. Advaniji has expressed this feeling in a different way.

We have codified our rights and some of the privileges of Parliament. It is only necessary that they be codified. I do reflect at times whether as parliamentarians we should not also endeavour to codify our obligations.

Just one more thought and it is not an irrelevant thought. That a parliamentary democracy or Government through parliamentary democracy is governance through discussion. Quite often I come to the conclusion that discussion must finally end at some stage so that governance can start. We have to reflect on that also.

I am very grateful to the Indian Parliamentary Group to have decided to recognise my very humble contribution to this great tradition. I do not think that this is simply a stone edifice in which we have the honour to function. It is a very great tradition. And if we are able to firstly recognise it and then to live up to this tradition, then I think, a very great service would be performed. I would really come up to it. I am very grateful to you. Thank you very much.

The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra, then read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2002 on Dr. Manmohan Singh.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 2002
PRESENTED
TO
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH, M.P.
BY
THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH has been a very highly respected front-ranking leader of the country of sterling qualities who has distinguished our national life in more ways than one. An eminent parliamentarian, acclaimed administrator, astute statesman, internationally respected economist, and today, the Prime Minister of the country, he has rendered yeoman's service in the cause of the nation and the people and lent dignity to our public discourse and in strengthening parliamentary democracy in our country. His integrity, rectitude and profound humility and at the same time his indomitable zeal to advance the causes of the people have won him the enduring affection of the people at large.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH entered the Parliament in 1991 at a crucial junction in India's history. His earlier association with the administrative apparatus, where he held high offices with great lustre, especially in matters relating to the nation's finance and economy, had enabled him to gain a deep insight into amongst others, the operational dynamics of the national economy. His exceptional understanding of the state of the economy and of public affairs perceptive assessment of the need to effect economic and financial reforms consistent with national priorities and without compromising national interests, and intuitive appreciation of the emerging global development scenario helped him immensely as the Union Finance Minister to cope with and confront the challenges of the times. In the next five years, DR. MANMOHAN SINGH guided the country in striving to integrate itself with the global economy. He also effectively articulated the genuine concerns of the developing world in the international fora and helped the emergence of a more humane and sensitive global monetary and financial architecture.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH, in all his long years in public life, has epitomized the best traditions of parliamentary democracy. In Parliament, his has been the voice of pragmatism, moderation and consensus. While he was the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, in the true spirit of democratic ethos and conventions and values, he extended constructive cooperation to the Government. Today, as the Prime Minister of the country, he has endeavoured to carry all sections of the House, rather, the nation as a whole with him on crucial issues. He has always been amenable to reason, and has been greatly accommodative of differing perceptions in the larger national interest. Indeed he epitomises the best in Indian polity.

For DR. MANMOHAN SINGH, power has been an instrument to mitigate the miseries of the poor and the downtrodden, and to serve the nation and Parliament, the institution to achieve these noble goals. His innate faith in the resilience of Indian democracy and its intrinsic strength has seen him successfully cope with various trials and tribulations and emerge triumphant. His extraordinary common sense, remarkable maturity and sane counsel have enlivened and enriched our parliamentary culture. By his steadfast commitment to the eternal ideals of democracy, he has become an institution by himself worthy of emulation by the parliamentary fraternity everywhere.

It is most appropriate that the Indian Parliamentary Group should confer its Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2002 on DR. MANMOHAN SINGH who has been a great inspiration and a role model for all in public life.

Indian Parliamentary Group,
Parliament House,
New Delhi

March 21, 2005
Phalguna 30, 1926 (Saka)

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam then Conferred the Award on Dr. Manmohan Singh.

ADDRESS BY DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Respected Up-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Speaker, Shri Advaniji, Shri Jaswant Singhji, Shrimati Soniaji, my Cabinet colleague Shri Arjun Singhji, fellow Parliamentarians, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am deeply moved and honoured by your decision to confer upon me this mark of recognition. In all humility, I must say that this wholly unexpected gesture will rank as one of the high points of my tenure as a member of our nation's Parliament. Friends, for me, the privilege of being selected for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award is heightened by the fact that I am in such an august company. This Award has earlier been given to some of the most distinguished parliamentarians of our time, which makes it a truly great honour.

Sir, I am conscious of the compliment that I have been paid by placing my name along side our respected Speaker, Shri Somnathji, our senior colleague and former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekharji and former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji. My Cabinet colleagues, Pranabji and Jaipal Reddyji, have also been the recipients of this honour in the past. And today, three other very eminent parliamentarians—Shri Advaniji, Shri Arjun Singhji and Shri Jaswant Singhji–have been similarly honoured. I cannot but say that I feel truly privileged to be in this august company.

Apart from thanking all of you for this mark of recognition, it is only appropriate that I also thank the people of Assam, whom I have the privilege of representing in the Rajya Sabha since 1991. Without the support of the people and electors of my second home, I would not be where I am today. For this, I cannot but be extremely grateful to the people of Assam.

Sir, I have been a fascinated observer of our Parliamentary debates for the better part of three decades now. From the official gallery, I have watched some of the great speakers of the day debate, discuss, parry and thrust, argue and concede many of the defining issues, which have shaped the modern India. It has been an invigorating experience from which I have been fortunate to learn immensely.

In my case, this process of learning was greatly accelerated when I joined the Rajya Sabha as a first-time Member of Parliament in the early nineties. As you might recall, a first-time Member joins the House with mixed feelings of pleasure and nervousness. In my case, this was heightened by the fact that I was also the Finance Minister. It is a rare moment when a Finance Minister is not a target of criticism from everybody– in and out of the Parliament.

Friends and colleagues, I think an occasion such as this also provides us an opportunity for some introspection. There can be little doubt that the standards of debates and general atmosphere, within which we carry out our business, have, of late, been declining. I think we will all agree that the increasingly negative public perception of politics as a subject, as an instrument of social change, and those of us who make it our vocation, it is purely due to this decline in standards. Without pointing fingers, we need to examine whether we are living up to the standards set by the great parliamentarians of the early years of our Independence.

As inheritors of this great tradition, it is for us to ensure that we set better standards for the future. For instance, we could be better prepared in Parliament, and in the House we could be more willing to listen to each other, even if we disagree, for that is the essence and hallmark of democracy. In that sense, Sir, sustaining the prestige, position and privileges that the Constitution confers upon Parliament as one of the pillars of our Republic, depends upon those of us who are its members.

The day our people begin to lose their faith in our institution, will be the day that this important edifice of our nation will come under pressure. We must not, and we must never let this happen.

Rashtrapatiji, Up-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Speaker, Sir, colleagues and friends, before I conclude, I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks for doing me this great honour. I would also like to thank all those who have reposed their faith and friendship with me in all these years in Parliament, my illustrious colleagues and Presiding Officers, over the years, from whom I have had the opportunity to learn many things. Much of what I have achieved and certainly this act of recognition is due to all of you. Thank you once again.

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE RAJYA SABHA, SHRI BHAIRON SINGH SHEKHAWAT*

His Excellency, the President; Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji; Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advaniji, Shri Arjun Singhji; Shri Jaswant Singhji; and all the Honourable members present here:

First of all I would like to congratulate Shri Jaswant Singhji, Shri Advaniji, Shri Arjun Singhji and Dr. Manmohan Singh for receiving the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award today. This is not only their honour but Parliament has also been honoured by doing so. Besides, it is also an honour of democracy in the form of Parliament. I wish that democracy may continue to be honoured in the same way in future. I can confidently say that our democracy is getting strengthened day by day.

I think that since our Constitution was framed and Parliament came into existence and the Honourable members expressed their views in both the Houses, this Parliament has been playing effective role to solve the problems of the people. I would like that the above four outstanding Parliamentarians who have been honoured, should make efforts for making other members outstanding. I have seen that this time, youth educated and candidates having faith in democracy have been elected. If we make them aware of the problems of the country, hold discussions with them and tell them about the solutions, it may be possible that one day not only the members who have served in the Parliament for 30 years but the young members will also be honoured. It would be better if we prepare them for that and they will show keen interest in the parliamentary affairs.

Sir, I know that when I was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1952. I did not know what the Legislative Assembly was. When I was elected to the Legislative Assembly then only I came know about its functioning. Shri Advaniji had also joined politics at that time. Since then, I have been observing that on every Bill, be it about reforms, Jamindari abolition, Tenancy and Land Revenue and such other Bills, brought in the Legislative Assembly, people held discussions. People wanted to know about new legislation. Thus they kept themselves in touch to get information and people believed that the discussion over the new legislation which was required, would definitely be held in the coming session of the Legislative Assembly and this problem would be solved.

Lok Sabha still witnesses debates, Budget discussions, discussions on Bills, etc. and Speaker's ruling is often cited but I have no hesitation

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* Original in Hindi

in saying that the public eagerness towards the business transacted by the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures is fading away with the passage of time. It is not that we have stopped working laboriously, we do that: we make Laws and do a lot of significant work. But, nevertheless, the eagerness of the people about our affairs is receding. We will have to think over the factors which derive people's attention. We often mention that the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary and Media are the four pillars of Democracy. I would like to add one more pillar in this list, which is more powerful. Even if the Judiciary wants, it cannot root out either Democracy or Parliament. Even if the Executive wants, it cannot abolish Judiciary or if Parliament wants so, it cannot harm any other column of Democracy. So to say, I would first like to mention that the Fifth pillar are the people who have been covered by the composite programmes of various nature, be it eradication of poverty, unemployment and starvation or the development of rural areas or to improve their health.

The more aware this fifth pillar is, the more powerful would be their wish to get their problems solved. And it will be done without delay through commitment of Parliament. We discuss a lot of issues, it's fine. But once the Parliament holds a sincere commitment towards eradicating the poverty and unemployment in India, it would certainly be awakening the most sought–after eagerness of our people, this is my conviction. If a Session of Parliament resolvedly discusses starvation of our people, unemployment and poverty, public health, it would certainly pave the way for the redressal of these problems. If Parliament promises this, the fifth pillar of our Democracy would contribute to strengthen it. Then, this Democracy will face no danger from any other force.

Sir, I would like to mention here that the honourable members honoured here today are the people who rarely smile. You must have seen it for yourself. That prevents me from saying anything to them. I know their nature. They never laugh.

You may or may not resort to laughter but please call the interested groups and talk to them. It would be good if you offer them tea or invite them for lunch. Such meetings would create an environment which would lead to mutual trust and smooth functioning of the Parliament.

With these words, I congratulate you. I am sure you would put to action whatever I have pleaded. Honourable Lok Sabha Speaker has nominated you and I am indebted to him for the same. I am happy to acknowledge that more members from the Rajya Sabha have been conferred upon this honour. This doesn't mean that you should come to the Rajya Sabha from Lok Sabha if you show your acumen there: you would be certainly nominated. There is a lot of scope in the Lok Sabha. But, there are still brighter chances in the Rajya Sabha.

Thanks a lot.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

Namaskar, Respected Shri Shekhawatji, Shri Somnathji, Honourable Manmohanji, Honourable Members and distinguished members in the audience. I warmly greet you from the core of my heart :

My greetings to all of you. Yesterday, it was a beautiful day for India. In the Eden Gardens, our people did a wonderful job.

I am indeed delighted to participate and stand here this morning in this historic Central Hall of the Parliament to congratulate and felicitate Distinguished Parliamentarians, Shri L.K. Advaniji, Shri Arjun Singhji, Shri Jaswant Singhji and Dr. Manmohan Singhji on their being conferred Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. I congratulate the outstanding parliamentarians. I feel particularly happy, when I infer that a function like this is a manifestation of the innate desire of our Parliamentarians to maintain the highest traditions and honour those who live up to them. It certainly augurs well for the future.

Freedom and democracy have all along been an integral part of India's culture. In fact, its history can be traced back to the very ancient period when Sabha and Samiti were two, highly respected institutions in our village republics which performed functions similar to those of the popular representative bodies of today. Our choice of a democratic political system, on achieving Independence was therefore, an automatic continuation of the ethos that had always been there, innately ingrained in India's culture.

We have been proud at the unparalleled distinction of India being the world's largest thriving Parliamentary democracy that is multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-cultural. We have completed 55 years of our Republic, with a flourishing democratic edifice, that is the envy of many other countries. What amazes the world perhaps is the sagacity and maturity of the Indian voters who have always tried to exercise their mandate conscientiously and enthusiastically proving once again that as envisaged in our Constitution, the people are sovereign and the power flows from them. People have a right and urge to live in a developed India. In this gathering I would like to discuss the topic "Significance of Developmental Politics".

When I see, in front of me, the outstanding Parliamentarians, a thought comes to me, which I would like to share with you. As you are all aware, in politics there are two dimensions, the first one is the political politics and the other is the developmental politics. Political politics was essential during the time of Independence movement.

Today, what is needed for India? With its 260 million people living below poverty line and the illiteracy rate being of the order of 34 per cent, the employment seekers of more than 36 million, our mission has to be, to make India a developed nation that is free from poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. This situation necessitates developmental politics.

I would like to visualise a situation in which the political parties perform in the environment of developmental politics in our country, competing with each other, in putting forth their political vision through their manifesto. It goes like this: let me narrate the sample scenarios:

> Suppose Party A will say, within 15 years, we will lead India into a developed nation and also give a development growth plan for every five years and execute it. Party B says, we will lead India into a developed nation within 15-X years through a clear cut action plan. Party C may unveil a new strategy for national development with different indicators and excel in ideas related to our role in the global arena. It may give a road map to ensure that India becomes a permanent member of United Nations Security Council within a period X years.
>
> In my scenario two, Party A says, we will create a nation where there is no unemployment. They suggest achieving this, through a mechanism of generating more employment providers rather than employment seekers. Party B will say, we will provide an environment and mechanism where no cases are pending in the courts and ensure that law and order problems are minimized and people live in a harmonious environment. Party C says that no Indian will go to sleep hungry. It has a vision to make sure that all the nations look up to India to provide the intellectual leadership to make the world peaceful, stable and a beautiful planet to live in. World peace will be India's target.
>
> In scenario three, Party A will say, we will ensure that all our border conflicts between neighbouring countries are resolved within a period of 10 years. Party B will say, we will resolve all border conflicts and create a harmonious relationship among the neighbouring countries within a period of 5 years. Party C may say border trade will become borderless. Commerce brings prosperity and prosperity brings peace.

When the opportunity is given for a particular party by the people to implement the development plan and it becomes a reality with the support of all members, the country and the people will be blessed by the noble act of the Parliamentarians. Democracy provides an opportunity to everyone to prove himself or herself how better he or she can perform in realizing the vision of the nation.

The need for removal of poverty totally, the need for providing opportunities for all our people in the fiercely competitive and knowledge based world and the need for providing security to the people and nation in the complex world of today, these multiple needs would lead to the necessity of our graduation from political politics to developmental politics.

There are many national issues, which have to be pursued by the Parliament beyond party ideologies. These include, the march towards developed nation, providing safe water, uninterrupted electricity, healthcare and shelter to every citizen of the country, the plans for communication and computer penetration and national security. The discussions, debates, generation of alternative ideas and consensus arrived at towards these goals through the parliamentary process will certainly lead India towards the path of reaching a developed India even before 2020. Hence, Parliament has to spend all the time with competitive spirit to carry out the developmental tasks in time.

Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) as presented in this year's Finance Bill has to be started on a mission mode since it will bring prosperity to six hundred thousand villages through connectivities. Parliamentarians have to contribute in a big way in progressing this mission.

Friends, I am going to talk about the role of Parliamentarians. The Parliament is a pivotal institution of democracy. The Parliament has to revitalize itself making it a vibrant, progressive and an ever-growing fortress of democracy. The Parliamentarians' role, therefore, assumes tremendous significance and it is essential that each one of the members of Parliament lives up to the aspirations and ideals for which they have been elected.

I am sure, I have your permission to speak some bare truths which we all know are a fact but would refuse to acknowledge. I have no hesitation in talking to you about them, because I am part of you; I am as much part of the Parliament, as you all are, and I am as much concerned about the success of our Parliamentary system, as you all are. Our polling processes have been, of late, under severe strain with certain fatal violences. Let us be honest to ourselves. The arithmetical compulsions of incremental numbers and the alleged tradability of certain legislative seats, won perhaps through means allegedly dubious and undemocratic, have many a time created doubts on our democratic system in the public eye. When politics degrades itself to political adventurism, the nation would be on the calamitous road to inevitable disaster and ruination. Let us not risk it. It is time all of us did an introspection and grew up to the expectations that were enshrined so

diligently and optimistically by the founding fathers in our Constitution so that India sustained itself and grew as a mature, healthy, vibrant and democratic nation.

In every action of Parliament Members, our 540 million youth who are below 25 years of age should see great leaders, who can be their role models who are going to bring a dynamic change in politics and the developmental missions. We owe it to the voters to fulfil their expectations due to which we are here. The ascending trajectory of the nation's progress cannot be ensured unless we put the nation above ourselves.

In conclusion, I would say that people are yearning for a life-style change by preserving the cultural heritage, values and ethos of the Indian civilization. Only you, Honourable members of Parliament, can bring the smiles on their faces, by enacting appropriate policies, laws and facilitating societal transformation. We seem to have been working with the policies and procedures which are based on mistrust. As a result, motivation and empowerment are dampened and suppressed, whereas Indian people have shown enormous achievement when provided an environment of trust and working space.

The Parliament needs to mount a mission to identify and scrap complex old laws and those administrative procedures which are hindering the growth oriented developmental economy. This will give scope and hope to a large section of the people who are honest, to flower and flourish. India must move to a trust-based system and only the members of this great Parliament can bring about this change. Your name is waiting to be written in the important pages of the history of India, to transform the nation into a developed India.

Let us show to ourselves and the world, the maturity in our politics which we have gained and how we can utilize that for the sustained development of our nation. We will strive to build an India that is vibrant, vigilant, safe and secular. I am sure that this is well within our capability and we can achieve it if we really want to.

Allow me now, once again to congratulate the Outstanding Parliamentarians, whom we are honouring now and may they blaze the trail for others to follow in the days to come.

I leave this Hall with the hope that our Parliamentary system which was set in motion with such great aspirations, rises from glory to glory in the days to come. I am sure and confident that you will rise to the occasion and prove that you can bring smiles on the faces of our billion people.

May God Bless you all. *Jai Hind.*

4

ADDRESSES AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE EIGHTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIANS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (APLAP)

The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was held in New Delhi from 18 to 22 January 2005. The Inaugural Session was held on 18 January 2005. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee delivered the Inaugural Address. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal also addressed the gathering.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on the occasion.

–Editor

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwalji, Secretaries-General, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the President and Office Bearers of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific, Delegates from the APLAP member countries and Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be here today and to have the opportunity to associate myself with this Conference. I extend a hearty welcome to you all, particularly to our friends from other countries, to New Delhi and to this Conference here. I am happy to note that a large number of professionals associated with information management in the Libraries of their respective Parliaments have assembled here to deliberate on important issues pertinent to their field of work.

Friends, one of the most remarkable developments of the last quarter of the previous century was the emergence of democracy as the most preferred and accepted system of governance across the world. Another equally remarkable development of this period was the revolutionary growth in the field of Information and Communications Technologies, known as ICTs. The immediate impact of the developments in the ICTs is in the information explosion and the resultant evolution

of an information-driven world order. Information is seen as the greatest source of power in today's world. This is all the more so for the people involved in managing public affairs, especially for the people's representatives.

It is said that knowledge begets ideas and ideas beget change. In a parliamentary democracy, parliamentarians, as leaders of the society are also the agents of change. The quality of change is inevitably linked to the extent and the quality of information the harbingers of change are endowed with. The crucial input that goes into the formulation of policies and into any effective legislation is the quantum and the quality of knowledge on which such policy or legislation is based.

Easy access to objective and quality information is thus an essential requirement for the representative institutions to function in a purposive manner. In this task, information managers in the Parliament Libraries have an important role to play. I understand that the APLAP was founded with the prime object of sharing professional expertise and experience of personnel working in the field of information management in the Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific region.

Friends, Parliament today stands at the centre of the entire spectrum of democratic processes, addressing various issues and striving to meet effectively the democratic aspirations of the people. As the supreme legislative and representative body and as a multifunctional institution, the Parliament is responsible for legislation, overseeing of administration, passing of budget, ventilation of public grievances and deliberating on national and international issues, particularly developmental issues. To deliberate and discuss meaningfully and to take informed decisions, parliamentarians must have unrestrained access to authentic, objective, balanced and non-partisan information. An informed parliamentarian can be of immense help in the emergence of an informed democracy. Similarly, an informed electorate can strengthen the edifice of democracy. The right to know and the right to information thus become crucial factors in a successful democratic system.

It is in this context that the Library and Information Management Centres of Parliaments can play a crucial role in the dissemination of information to the Parliament and its members as also in the dissemination of information about Parliament to the people. Only a focused, research-oriented and specialized Library with a commitment to the cause of democracy can cater to the needs of the parliamentarians effectively in today's information-driven society. It is, therefore, essential that the Legislature should develop its own independent mechanisms for intelligent collection, safe storage, expeditious retrieval and timely

dissemination of information. These activities have to be necessarily centred around a well-organised and professionally-managed Library.

Being the repositories of knowledge and wisdom, Libraries, especially Parliament Libraries, have to become integral parts of democratic societies. If properly utilized, they can be turned into great assets to the citizens by helping their representatives to participate more effectively in the democratic processes and in making informed decisions on matters of policy and administration. Libraries should be able to supply unbiased and objective material representing all the points of view on a given topic.

The revolutionary breakthroughs in the field of information and communication technologies have impacted our lives in many ways, touching upon virtually all aspects of human activity. The ICT revolution has also influenced the way information is stored, processed, managed, retrieved and disseminated. A great quantum of information is generated every moment on virtually every conceivable subject today. The ability to collect, store and disseminate such information has become a vital tool and a basis of power, especially for the decision-makers and opinion leaders. The telecommunication network, the advent of computerization, the advancements in satellite communication and the onset of the Internet have all led to a virtual collapse of territorial boundaries and geographical barriers today. This has also contributed significantly in popularizing democratic ideals and in transforming many non-democratic regimes into democracy.

Friends, today, information has become the most vital and the basic resource for the advancement of society. To access accurate, exhaustive and objective information within the shortest possible time, we need to rely on the latest available technologies in this area. These technologies have made their impact on Parliaments too in the context of information management. Since libraries are mostly concerned with the storage and retrieval of information, the ICTs have influenced their working also in a substantial way. Libraries are increasingly getting centred around the use of Internet and other networks and the possibility of a library without walls is not a distant dream but a virtual reality today. The age of 'Paperless libraries' does not appear to be too far! The focus today should be on the networking of the library and the professional excellence of the information managers and access to information rather than on the traditional method of acquisition and collection of the sources which contained such information.

In this context, it is of utmost importance that the Parliament Libraries are well connected and resources are shared. Such sharing will

also help us to know how other Parliaments work, the procedures followed in different Legislatures, how the Committees function, how the Committee reports are prepared and above all, how the executive accountability to the Legislatures is ensured.

Friends, as information and library specialists, you are aware that, today, a vast array of literature is available on each and every subject. In the case of a Parliament Library, the quantity of information available and managed is enormous as these are considered to be institutions of national importance, serving a large number of members of parliament in effectively discharging their responsibilities as elected representatives. It is the role and responsibility of the personnel of the Parliament Library, both as professionals and as citizens in a democracy, to provide unbiased, objective, factual and analytical information to the members of Parliament at short notice. On occasions, members may not find time to go through the catalogue, go to the racks or sit at the computers to access information, as they always have a large constituency to attend to, many routine letters to answer, several public functions to attend and many other responsibilities. That being so, it is important that a member of Parliament must be served by the Parliament Library in the most efficient manner.

A library or a research official should be able to provide him with the latest and the most relevant information on any subject expeditiously. In addition, libraries and research services should always keep a vigil on the latest developments in all fields and bring out well-documented research studies on important topics, even without a formal request from a member. With the help of such documents, along with their personal understanding of issues and grass root experience, members will be able to function more effectively in discharging their varied responsibilities in the Parliament, in its Committees and in their Constituencies. The Library has to play proactive role in the dissemination of authentic information to the members. It should have sufficient number of subject and area specialists who can give the correct lead and valuable research support to the members on a continuous basis.

It will also be helpful if Parliamentary Libraries can conduct seminars, workshops and symposia on topics of interest to the members. This can help them in sharing ideas and in understanding issues from a broader perspective. Such efforts will also help in augmenting the knowledge and skills of the people who manage the library and research services. Members will then be able to take full

advantage of the vast resources in the library and the expertise and knowledge base of the officers of the library.

Friends, from the detailed agenda of the Conference, I understand that you will be deliberating on important subjects of professional interest relating to information management in the Parliament Libraries. This kind of interaction would help the experts in sharing their experience and expertise. It will also help all of you to serve the institution you work for more effectively and contribute towards strengthening the democratic fabric in your respective countries. I congratulate the APLAP for providing this forum for the benefit of the member Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific region.

With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Conference. I am sure, the deliberations of this Conference would go a long way in enabling the Library and the information managers to assist the Parliaments and the parliamentarians to function more effectively and thereby help in strengthening democracy in the Asia-Pacific region. I extend my best wishes for the success of the Conference.

Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL

Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri Malhotraji, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narainji, Delegates and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have great pleasure in associating myself with the inaugural function of the Eighth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP).

May I, at the outset, extend a hearty welcome to all the delegates and observers who have gathered here to attend this meeting of the Parliamentary Librarians of the Asia-Pacific region–a region which is emerging as an important entity of an increasingly integrated and rapidly changing world. Your brief sojourn in India, I am sure, would bring us closer to each other and help us better understand each other's perspectives on vital issues pertaining to the application of information technology in the parliamentary libraries of our region.

Friends, I understand that ever since its inception in 1990, the APLAP has been promoting information exchange and cooperation among the parliamentary libraries in the region. The Conferences of APLAP provide parliamentary librarians a unique platform to share their experiences

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee (in the centre) delivering the inaugural address

and coordinate their efforts towards sharing of information resources, especially in our region. In the coming days, you will have an opportunity to share your experiences with learned participants on various aspects of the theme of this Eighth Biennial Conference, 'Changing Dimensions of Parliamentary Library and Information Services in the Third Millennium'. I am confident you all will stand to benefit from the meaningful deliberations at the Conference.

Friends, you are all aware of the vital role that information plays in steering all human endeavours towards progress and development. Easy access to information and knowledge is indispensable for individual advancement as well as for overall national development. The timely availability of correct information helps in improving the ability of an individual, an institution, a government agency, in taking informed decisions and achieving the desired goals.

As you all know, the amazing technological and scientific developments of recent decades have resulted in spectacular advancements in information and communication systems. The introduction of personal computers, super computers, CD-ROM and multimedia technologies have drastically changed the very nature of our present day world. The greatest advantage of the new technologies is that they have given an impetus to research and development activities, and led to what is referred to as an information explosion; they have also significantly improved the process of storage, retrieval and dissemination of information.

Libraries, as you all know, are important social institutions which work for the diffusion of knowledge. The wealth of knowledge as well as intellectual, scholarly and research resources in libraries, information centres and information systems of a country is one of the greatest strengths of that nation. In the wake of the knowledge explosion and the consequent free flow of information, no library in the world can afford to develop a fully comprehensive information base and be self-sufficient in all respects. I am of the view that libraries of different countries should evolve a mechanism of cooperating and exchanging information with one another so that information on various dimensions of the developmental process is easily accessible to all.

As I have said earlier, information technology has highly revolutionized the field of library and information science. The development of information and communication technologies has resulted in resource sharing, networking and on-line information retrieval from databases. With the introduction of new information technologies, libraries are now in a position to disseminate a vast quantum of information more quickly and in greater volume than ever before.

I would particularly like to mention here that these technological developments have vastly impacted the functioning of Parliaments and also posed a new challenge in information management. Legislatures are the supreme deliberative bodies of a country, where a wide range of national and international issues are discussed. In order to make an effective contribution to the deliberations of the House, legislators must have access to the latest information on topical issues. The availability of quick and relevant information has thus become vital for a legislator to perform his duty efficiently.

As representative institutions the world over are faced with complex and challenging problems, legislators cutting across national boundaries should share and learn from each other's experiences so as to find realistic solutions to problems, general or area-specific. As such, I strongly believe that exchange of information among Parliaments needs to be accorded utmost importance. Vital linkages and interaction among parliamentarians across the world can be established by having recourse to modern technology.

Friends, Parliaments the world over have developed well-organised information management systems to cater to the multifarious information requirements of its members. In the Parliament of India, this task is assigned to the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service. Our Parliament Library has grown from a scratch since its inception in 1921 to become one of the finest and richest repositories of knowledge and information in the country today. It was only in July 2002 that we shifted our Library from the Parliament House to the newly constructed *Sansadiya Gyanpeeth* which is a modular and utilitarian building, having stacking space for about three million publications.

Our endeavour has been to provide the most modern facilities and prompt services to the members of both the Houses of Parliament. Our Library is supported by an efficient research and reference service that keeps the members well informed about the latest developments in various fields.

In order to keep pace with the advances in information technology, we started a computer-based information service named PARLIS in 1985. Since then, we have come a long way and presently almost all the activities of the Lok Sabha Secretariat have been automated. Needless to say, the growing use of computers, generation of electronic database and introduction of networking technologies have facilitated easy availability of information to our members. In all these endeavours, we have received unstinted cooperation from successive Speakers of the Lok Sabha. We

have also benefited from the valuable guidance from the Library Committee and the Committees of the two Houses for the Provision of Computers to Members of Parliament, Offices of Political Parties and Officers of the two Secretariats.

As one of the important segments of LARRDIS, the Press and Public Relations Wing has been maintaining a continuous liaison with the Press, various governmental publicity organisations and other media for the publicity of the parliamentary proceedings and other activities of the Lok Sabha. We have also taken several steps to telecast/broadcast the proceedings of the Parliament, thus bringing it nearer to the people. The launching of two separate dedicated satellite channels for telecasting live the entire proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha nationwide on 14 December, 2004 by the honourable Chairman, Rajya Sabha and the honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha respectively, has, indeed, been a landmark development in the history of telecasting of our parliamentary proceedings.

Friends, effective communication, instant availability of appropriate and quality information and inter-linkages of databases are essential components of a successful democracy. The Legislatures of the Asia-Pacific region should, therefore, make vigorous and earnest efforts in developing and using new technologies that provide better access to information. There is also a pressing need to set up linkages among the various libraries of the region. Exchange of information and cooperation among the information managers of the Asia-Pacific region, I am sure, would go a long way in further bridging the information gap among the parliamentary fraternity.

I extend my best wishes to all of you for a fruitful Conference and memorable stay in our country.

With these words, I thank you.

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PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

CPA Seminar on *"Corruption, Human Rights and Opposition Party Politics"* in London: A Seminar on "Corruption, Human Rights and Opposition Party Politics" was organized by the U.K. Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in London from 23 to 29 January 2005. The Seminar was attended by Smt. Karuna Shukla and Dr. M.S. Gill, both members of Parliament.

The Seminar held three Plenary Sessions on the themes: Corruption: The Challenges of Eradication; Human Rights: Legislation or Moral Pressure; and Government and Opposition Party Politics: Two Sides of the Same Coin?

Workshops were held in these Sessions and the following subjects were discussed:

- Is Corruption a Necessary Evil
- Can Democracy Survive Corruption
- The Problem of Framing Legislation
- The State and the Individual: Should Human Rights Prevail over Democracy
- The Opposition: Equal Partners?
- The Facilities Granted to the Opposition

CPA Parliamentary Seminar in Islamabad: A CPA Parliamentary Seminar was held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 7 to 9 February 2005 The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra participated in the Seminar as a Resource Person. He was also invited by the Parliament of Pakistan to assist in the drafting of the Constitution for the new CPA Asia Region.

The following subjects were discussed in the Seminar:

- The Development of the Commonwealth and the Role of the CPA

- The Role of Members and Procedure in the House
- Women in Parliament
- Standing Orders and Legislation
- Parliamentary Committees
- Financial Scrutiny of the Executive
- The Role of the Opposition
- Privileges, Members' Interests, Ethics and Accountability
- Parliamentary Engagement with Civil Society and the Media

The 54th Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures in London: The 54th Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures was held in London from 8 to 19 March 2005. The Seminar was attended by Sarvashri Rajendra Arlekar, member, Goa Legislative Assembly and Kalpataru Das, member, Orissa Legislative Assembly from the CPA State Branches of the India Region of the CPA.

CPA Study Group on "The Role of Parliamentarians in Combating HIV/AIDS Pandemic" in New Delhi: In pursuance of a request by the CPA Headquarters Secretariat, the India Union Branch of the CPA organized a meeting of the Study Group on "The Role of Parliamentarians in Combating HIV/AIDS Pandemic" in New Delhi from 31 January to 6 February 2005.

The Study Group was inaugurated by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal. The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementaton, Shri Oscar Fernandes and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra and the Director of Development and Planning, CPA Secretariat, London, also addressed the members of the Study Group during the Inaugural Function. In all, 11 delegates from various CPA Branches participated in the Study Group meeting. The Delegates from the India Union Branch were: Shri J.D. Seelam, Dr. R.C. Dome, Smt. Savita Sharda and Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, all members of Parliament.

The following subjects were discussed in the Study Group:

- The Role and Responsibility of Parliamentarians: An Overview
- The Global Response to HIV/AIDS
- The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Women and Children
- International Obligations and Human Rights in Addressing HIV/AIDS

- The Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS
- A Multi-sectoral Approach to the Pandemic
- The Need for Political and Parliamentary Leadership

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the India Region of the CPA in New Delhi: A meeting of the Executive Committee of the India Region of the CPA was held in Parliament House Annexe on 20 March 2005. The meeting was chaired by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Executive Committee of India Region of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Some important decisions relating to the India Region of the CPA were taken at the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly and Regional Representative to the CPA Executive Committee, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim; the Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council and Regional Representative to the CPA Executive Committee, Shri Abdul Rashid Dar; the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy; and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Regional Secretary, India Region of the CPA, Shri G.C. Malhotra.

The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) in New Delhi: The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was held in New Delhi from 18 to 22 January 2005. The Conference was hosted by the Parliament of India and attended by sixty-eight Delegates/Observers from forty Parliaments/ Legislatures.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, on 18 January 2005. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra; the President of APLAP and Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Shri R.C. Ahuja; and the Secretary of APLAP, Ms. Roslynn Membrey also addressed the participants at the inaugural function.

The Conference which met in Six Sessions deliberated on the main Theme "*Changing Dimensions of Parliamentary Library and Information Services in the Third Millennium*". The Keynote Address on the theme was delivered by the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra, on 19 January 2005. The remaining five Sessions were devoted to five related themes, viz. *"Research and Reference Services for Members"; "Library Services for Members"; "Bringing Parliament nearer to the People: Communicating Parliament"; "IT in Parliamentary Library and*

Information Services"; and *"Changing Dimensions of Library and Information Services in India"*, the Keynote Addresses of which were delivered by Ms. Katherine Close (New Zealand); Ms. Roslynn Membrey (Australia); Shri N.K. Sapra (India); Dr. Karl-Min Ku (Chinese Taipei); and Dr. Jagdish Arora (IIT, Delhi, India), respectively. The Keynote Addresses set the tone for the discussions that followed. Country Papers presented by the Delegates delineated the operational dynamics of Library and Information Management in their Legislatures.

The Conference, which commenced with the observance of one minute's silence in memory of the victims of the recent Tsunami devastation, also adopted a Condolence Resolution in this regard. During the Conference two booklets titled, *"Information Management in the Parliament of India"* (Fifth Revised Edition) and *"Library Services in the Parliament of India"* were brought out by the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Emergent Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India: An Emergent Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at New Delhi on 20 March 2005. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Somnath Chatterjee presided over the Conference. The subject, "Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary" was discussed during the Conference. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal; and 23 Presiding Officers from the State/Union territory Legislatures in India participated in the Conference.

On suggestions from several Presiding Officers, the Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference constituted a Drafting Committee for drafting a Resolution. The Drafting Committee consisted of the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal, as its Chairman and the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim; the Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council, Shri Abdul Rashid Dar; the Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shri Mata Prasad Pandey; the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy; and the Speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha, Ch. Prem Singh, as its members. The Drafting Committee met separately and finalized a Resolution.

At the end of the Conference, the Resolution was moved by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Drafting Committee,

Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. It was resolved:-

(a) That there must exist mutual trust and respect between the Legislature and the Judiciary and also an understanding that they are not acting at cross purposes but striving together to achieve the same goal that is to serve the common man of this country and to make this country strong;

(b) That the Judiciary commands and justly deserves all the respect and dignity it enjoys;

(c) That the Legislatures also, as the supreme legislative and representative bodies which give voice to the hopes and aspirations of the teeming millions of this country, deserve the same degree of respect and dignity;

(d) That the success of democratic governance would be greatly facilitated if these two important institutions respect each others' role in the national endeavour and do not transgress into areas assigned to them by the Constitution;

(e) That it is imperative to maintain harmonious relations between the Legislatures and the Judiciary

Function to confer Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards: A function was organized by the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 1999 to 2002 in the Central Hall of the Parliament House on 21 March 2005. The Awards were conferred by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Sarvashri Lal Krishna Advani, Arjun Singh, Jaswant Singh and Dr. Manmohan Singh respectively for the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. Instituted by the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) in the year 1995, the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award is bestowed on parliamentarians of great eminence for their long-standing contribution towards strengthening our parliamentary edifice.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2005.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2005. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; members of Parliament and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2005. Members of Parliament and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2005. Members of Parliament and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 28 February 2005. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal; members of Parliament and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2005. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the House (Lok Sabha) and Minister of Defence, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs, Shri Jagdish Tytler; members of Parliament and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

Iran: An 11-member Parliamentary Delegation from Iran led by the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic

of Iran, Dr. Gholamali Haddad Adel visited India from 27 February to 4 March, 2005.

On 28 February 2005, the Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee hosted a Dinner in honour of the Delegation the same evening. On 1 March 2005, the Delegation called on the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Aligarh, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Jordan: An 11-member Parliamentary Delegation from Jordan led by Mr. Sami Ali Moh'd Khasawneh, member of the Jordanian Parliament visited India from 19 to 23 April 2005.

On 19 April 2005, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal hosted a Dinner in honour of the Delegation the same evening.

On 20 April 2005, the Delegation called on the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Jaipur.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period from 1 January to 31 March 2005, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organized the following Courses/Programmes:

Orientation Programme: (i) An Orientation Programme was organized for the members of the Maharashtra Legislature from 2 to 4 March 2005. The Programme was attended by 74 members.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses were organized for the probationers of the following Central Services: (i) Indian Audit and Accounts Service and Indian Ordnance Factory Service (7 to 11 March 2005); and (ii) Indian Revenue Service (14 to 18 March 2005).

Study Visits: (i) A Study Visit was organized for members of the Sri Lankan Parliamentary Delegation from 18 to 19 March 2005. It was attended by 10 members.

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PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Notice of Adjournment Motion not allowed if the subject matter is sub judice: On 1 March 2005, at the commencement of the sitting of the House, the Leader of Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani, raised the matter of the notice of adjournment motion on the issue of the dismissal of the Goa Government by the Governor. The Leader of the House and Minister of Defence, Shri Pranab Mukherjee also made his submission on the issue. Thereafter, before adjourning the House for the day, the Speaker observed:

> "I have received a notice from Shri L.K. Advani expressing his intention to move an adjournment motion regarding the dismissal of the duly elected Government of Shri Manohar Parrikar, Chief Minister of Goa by the Governor of the State.
>
> I have heard honourable Shri Advani and some honourable members on the issue of admissibility of the notice. As per Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Adjournment Motion is an extraordinary device, which if admitted, leads to setting aside the normal business of the House for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.
>
> Rule 56 has to be read in consonance with sub-rules (vii) and (viii) of Rule 58, and such a reading would make it clear that the right to move the Adjournment Motion in the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance shall be subject to the following restrictions:
>
> "the motion shall not deal with any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India; and the motion shall not raise any question, which under the Constitution or these rules, can only be raised on a distinct motion by a notice given in writing to the Secretary-General".
>
> I have to inform the House that I have a communication from the Government informing that a Writ Petition (C) No. 78 of 2005 – Manohar Parrikar vs State of Goa and Others,

in this regard, is under consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter is *sub judice.*

I may also inform the House that on an earlier occasion, i.e. on 27 November 1996, notices of Adjournment Motion, given by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Leader of the Opposition, and five other honourable members seeking to raise issues *inter-alia* relating to the alleged unconstitutional action of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh and continuation of the President's rule in the State were also disallowed by the Chair *inter alia* on the ground that the matter was *sub judice* in the Allahabad High Court.

As per Kaul and Shakdher, Page 512, it has been held by the Speakers from time to time that conduct of the Governor of a State could not be raised by way of an Adjournment Motion.

In view of these facts, I withhold my consent to the notice of adjournment motion".

Instance when the Speaker made an announcement to make statements every week in the House: On 15 March 2005 after the Question Hour, the Speaker made an announcement that from that day onwards, he proposed to make statements every week in the House, briefly recapitulating the business transacted by the House, and time, if any, lost due to unscheduled adjournments.

Instances when the Speaker allowed the members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 2 March 2005, the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was moved amid disorderly scenes. In that circumstances, the Speaker ordered the mover, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and the seconder, Shri Ajay Maken to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 11 March 2005, during discussion on the Railway Budget, 2005-06, the Deputy Speaker permitted Shri Laxminarayan Pandey to lay a portion of his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 14 March 2005, during discussion on the Railway Budget, 2005-06, the Chair permitted fifty-three members to lay their written speeches on the Table. Out of these, two members laid portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 15 March 2005, during discussion on the Railway Budget, 2005-06, the Speaker permitted four members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 17 March 2005, during discussion on the General Budget, 2005-06, the Chair permitted forty-six members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Out of these, nine members laid portions of their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 23 March 2005, during the discussion under rule 193 on natural calamities in the country, the Deputy Speaker who was in the Chair permitted five members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instance when member whose name was not in the List of Business was allowed to seek clarificatory question: On 24 March 2005, the Speaker allowed Shri Shailender Kumar whose name was not in the List of Business, to ask a clarificatory question on the Calling Attention regarding inordinate delay in merging the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

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PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2005)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The Budget Session of Parliament commenced on 25 February 2005 with the Address by the President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The two Houses were adjourned on 24 March 2005 to facilitate the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Union Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House. Both the Houses re-assembled on 19 April 2005 and were adjourned *sine die* on 13 May 2005. The two Houses were prorogued by the President on 17 May 2005.

Election to Rajya Sabha: On 10 January 2005, Professor P.J. Kurien was declared elected to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala.

Death of Rajya Sabha Member: On 14 February 2005, Shri Vidya Nivas Misra, a Nominated Member of the Rajya Sabha passed away.

Resignation of Lok Sabha Member: On 10 March 2005, Shri S. Bangarappa, member of Lok Sabha from Shimoga constituency (Karnataka) resigned from his seat.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Members: On 16 March 2005, Shri Stephen Marandi of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) resigned his Rajya Sabha seat following his election to the Jharkhand State Legislative Assembly.

On 18 March 2005, Shri Sanjay Nirupam of Shiv Sena (Maharashtra) resigned his Rajya Sabha seat.

AROUND THE STATES

BIHAR

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the 243-seat State Legislative Assembly of the State were held in three phases on 3. 15 and 23 February 2005. The party position following the elections is as follows: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD): 75; Janata Dal (United): 55; Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 37; Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP): 29; Indian National Congress (INC): 10; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation) CPI (ML)(L): 7; Samajwadi Party (SP): 4; Communist Party of India (CPI): 3; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP): 3; Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP): 2; Communist Party of India (Marxist): 1; and Independents: 17.

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 28 February 2005, the Chief Minister, Smt. Rabri Devi submitted her resignation to the Governor.

President's Rule Recommended by Governor: On 6 March 2005, the Governor, Shri Buta Singh recommended President's rule in the State as no political party or coalition of parties was in a position to form a stable Government. The Governor under Article 174 (2) of the Constitution dissolved the outgoing Assembly whose term had come to an end.

GOA

Political Developments: On 27 January 2005, the United Goan Democratic Party (UGDP-Micky) MLA Shri Francisco *alias* Micky Pacheco, merged his party with the BJP.

On 28 January 2005, Shri Atansio *alias* Babush Monserrate, who was divested of the Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) Ministry on 27 January, resigned from the Council of Ministers.

Government Reduced to Minority: On 29 January 2005, four BJP MLAs resigned from the membership of the House and the party. The MLAs were: Sarvashri Shri Atansio alias Babush Monserrate, Francisco *alias* Micky Pacheco, Pandurang Madkaikar and Isidore Fernandes. The Speaker, Shri Vishwas Satarkar accepted their resignations.

Also, two Ministers-Shri Ramakrishna *alias* Sudhin Dhavlikar (of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party) and Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues (an Independent)-withdrew support to the Parrikar Government and also resigned from the Council of Ministers.

The 40-member Goa Assembly had 21 BJP MLAs, 15 members of the INC, one member each of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, Nationalist Congress Party and United Goans Democratic Party and an Independent. With the resignation of four members, the BJP strength in the Assembly had come down to 17, including the Speaker.

Meanwhile, the United Legislative Front headed by the Congress claimed support of 19 MLAs and staked claim to form the Government.

New Chief Minister: On 2 February 2005, the Governor, Shri S.C. Jamir dismissed the Manohar Parrikar Government and invited Shri Pratapsinh Rane of the Congress to form the Government. Later, in the day Shri Pratapsinh Rane was sworn-in as the Chief Minister. Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues was sworn-in as the Deputy Chief Minister.

On 3 February 2005, the Chief Minister Shri Pratapsinh Rane inducted six Ministers into his Council of Ministers. The Ministers are: Sarvashri Francisco alias Micky Pacheco, Pandurang Madkaikar, Isidore Fernandes, Luizinho Faleiro, Dayanand Narvekar and Dr. Wilfred De Souza.

Resignation of BJP MLA: On 24 February 2005, BJP MLA Shri Digambar Kamat resigned from his Margao Assembly constituency.

Resignation of Speaker and Deputy Speaker: On 28 February 2005, just before the Chief Minister Shri Pratapsinh Rane could move the motion seeking Vote of Confidence, the Speaker Shri Vishwas Satarkar and the Deputy Speaker Shri Narahari Handankar resigned from their posts. Earlier in the day, Shri Satarkar disqualified the Deputy Chief Minister Shri Filipe Neri Rodrigues on a petition filed by a BJP MLA Shri Sadanand Shet Tanvande.

The Governor Shri S.C. Jamir appointed Shri Francisco Sardinha as the pro tem Speaker.

Imposition of President's Rule: On 4 March 2005, the Chief Minister Shri Pratapsinh Rane won the Vote of Confidence in the State Assembly with *pro tem* Speaker Francisco Sardinha casting his vote in favour of the Congress when there was a 16-16 tie. However, in the late evening, on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet, the President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam imposed the President's Rule in the State and put the State Assembly under suspended animation.

HARYANA

Assembly Election Results: The elections to the 90-seat State Legislative Assembly were held on 3 February 2005. The party position

following the elections is as follows: Indian National Congress (INC): 67; Indian National Lok Dal (INLD): 9; Bharatiya Janata Party: 2; BSP: 1; NCP: 1; and Independents: 10.

New CLP Leader: On 4 March 2005, Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda was unanimously elected as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP).

New Chief Minister: On 5 March 2005, Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda was sworn in as the Chief Minister.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 10 March 2005, the Chief Minister, Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda expanded his Cabinet by inducting the following Ministers of Cabinet rank: Sarvashri Chander Mohan, Ajay Singh Yadav, Birender Singh Yadav, L.D. Arora, Phool Chand Mullana, Om Prakash Jindal, Surender Singh, Venod Kumar Sharma, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Smt. Kartar Devi.

On 15 March 2005, the Chief Minister allocated portfolios to his Council of Ministers as follows: Sarvashri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, *Chief Minister and Departments not allotted to any Minister;* Chander Mohan, *Deputy Chief Minister, Food and Supplies;* Venod Kumar Sharma, *Excise and Taxation and Forests;* Birender Singh, *Finance and Labour and Employment;* Surender Singh, *Agriculture and Revenue:* Ajay Singh Yadav, *Irrigation and Elections;* Om Prakash Jindal, *Power and Printing and Stationery;* Phool Chand Mullana, *Education & Languages, Industrial Training and Vocational Education;* Lachhman Das Arora, *Industries and Urban Development;* Randeep Singh Surjewala, *Transport and Parliamentary Affairs;* and Smt. Kartar Devi, *Health, Social Welfare and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.*

New Speaker: On 21 March 2005, Shri H.S. Chatha of the Indian National Congress was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

Death of Two Ministers: On 31 March 2005, the Agriculture and Revenue Minister Shri Surender Singh and the Power Minister Shri O.P. Jindal, died in a Helicopter crash in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Resignation of Minister: On 1 February 2005, the Education Minister, Ms. Asha Kumari resigned from the Council of Ministers.

JHARKHAND

Expulsion of Three MLAs: On 4 January 2005, the Speaker of the

State Legislative Assembly Shri M.P. Singh disqualified three MLAs under the Anti Defection Act. The MLAs, originally belonging to the Janata Dal (United) had joined the Rashtriya Janata Dal without tendering their resignations from the Assembly. The MLAs are: Sarvashri Madhu Singh, Ramchandra Kesari and Lalchand Mahato.

Resignation of Speaker: On 13 January 2005. the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly Shri M.P. Singh resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party following the denial of party ticket for the forthcoming Assembly elections and joined the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

Assembly Election Results: The elections to the 81-seat Legislative Assembly were held on 3,15 and 23 February 2005. The party position following the elections is as follows: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 30; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM):17; Indian National Congress (INC): 9; Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD):7; Janata Dal (United):6; All India Forward Bloc (AIFB):2; United Goans Democratic Party (UGDP):2; All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU):2; Jharkhand Party (JKP):1; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP):1; CPI (ML)(L):1; and Independents:3.

On 1 March 2005, both the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and the United Progressive Alliance formally staked claim to form the Government.

New Chief Minister: On 2 March 2005, the Governor, Shri Syed Sibtey Razi invited Shri Shibu Soren of the United Progressive Alliance to form the Government. Later, Shri Shibu Soren was sworn in as the Chief Minister. Along with him, Shri Stephen Marandi was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister. Five others were also sworn in as the Cabinet Ministers. They were: Sarvashri Joba Manjhi, Bandhu Tirkey, Kamlesh Kumar Singh, Girinath Singh, and Smt. Annapurana Devi.

Pro tem Speaker: On 7 March 2005, Shri Pradeep Balmuchu of the Congress was appointed as the pro tem Speaker of the State Assembly.

Directions by the Supreme Court: While hearing a petition filed by Shri Arjun Munda, the Supreme Court on 9 March 2005 directed the pro tem Speaker of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly to conduct a composite floor test in the Assembly on 11 March (instead of 15 March 2005, as decided by the Governor) to ascertain who enjoyed the majority – the Chief Minister, Shri Shibu Soren, appointed by the Governor or Shri Arjun Munda.

The Court also restrained the Governor, Shri Syed Sibtey Razi, from nominating an Anglo-Indian member to the Assembly.

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 11 March 2005. the Chief Minister

Shri Shibu Soren resigned as earlier in the day Shri Soren could not prove his majority on the floor of the House. The Governor invited Shri Arjun Munda to form the Government.

New Chief Minister: On 12 March 2005, Shri Arjun Munda of the BJP was sworn in as the Chief Minister. Along with him, the following five Ministers also took oath of office: Sarvashri Sudesh Mahto, Chandra Prakash Chowdhary, Enos Ekka, Madhu Koda and Harinarayan Rai.

On the same day, the pro tem Speaker Shri Pradeep Balmuchu resigned on personal grounds.

New Speaker: On 15 March 2005, Shri Inder Singh Namdhari was elected as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

NCP Merger with BJP: The Jharkhand unit of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which had one MLA Shri Kamlesh Singh, merged with the BJP.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 29 March 2005, the Chief Minister, Shri Arjun Munda inducted five new Ministers into his Cabinet, namely Sarvashri Kamlesh Singh, Raghubar Das, Pradeep Yadav, Ramesh Singh Munda and Radhakrishna Kishore.

Allocation of Portfolios: On 30 March 2005, the Chief Minister, Shri Arjun Munda allocated portfolios to the members of his Council of Ministers. The names of the Ministers with their portfolios are as follows: Sarvashri Arjun Munda, *Chief Minister and portfolios not allocated to other Ministers;* Kamlesh Singh, *Water Resources, Food and Civil Supplies Department;* Raghubar Das, *Urban Development and Finance;* Pradeep Yadav, *Human Resource Development;* Ramesh Singh Munda, *Welfare;* Radhakrishna Kishore, *Drinking Water and Sanitation;* Sudesh Mahto, *Home, Prisons, Road, Building Construction and Sports;* Chandra Prakash Chowdhary, *Science and Technology, Land Revenue and Registration;* Enos Ekka, *Rural Development and Transport;* Madhu Koda, Mines, *Cooperative and Parliamentary Affairs;* and Harinarayan Rai, *Forest and Environment.*

KERALA

Resignation of Minister: On 4 January 2005, the Industries Minister, Shri P.K. Kulhalikutty resigned from the Council of Ministers.

CPI(M) MLA's Election Quashed: On 11 January 2005, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court quashed the election of the CPI(M) MLA, Shri P. Jayarajan, to the Legislative Assembly from the

Koothuparamba constituency holding that he was disqualified to contest the election at the time of filing his nomination papers.

Resignation of Minister: On 9 February 2005, the Forest Minister Shri K. P. Vishwanathan resigned from the State Cabinet following the remarks passed by the Kerala High Court stating that he had links with the sandalwood mafia.

MAHARASHTRA

Assembly By-election Results: In the by-elections held on 24 January 2005, Shri Patil Ratikant Shankareppa (Shiv Sena) and Shri Dinanath Padole (Indian National Congress) were declared elected from Solapur South and Nagpur South Assembly seats, respectively.

Resignation of Minister: On 10 March 2005, the Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Shri Suresh Dada Jain resigned from the Cabinet after an enquiry commission indicted him of corrupt practices and maladministration.

MEGHALAYA

Assembly By-election Results: The by-elections to three Assembly constituencies were held on 23 February 2005. The winners are: Sarvashri Bir Bahadur Chettri (BJP- Mawprem), Ananda Koch (BJP-Selsella) and Ms. Doly Sangma (UDP-Songsak).

PUNJAB

Assembly By-election Result: Shri Harpartap Singh Ajnala of the INC was declared elected from the Ajnala Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 23 February 2005.

RAJASTHAN

Suspension of MLA: On 5 January 2005, the Bharatiya Janata Party suspended its party MLA from Sriganganagar, Shri Surendra Singh Rathore, from the party for anti-party activities.

Assembly By-election Result: Shri Jogaram Patel of the BJP was declared elected from the Luni Assembly constituency, by-election for which was held on 24 January 2005.

TAMIL NADU

Death of MLA: On 9 January 2005, Shri K. Sudharsanam, ruling AIADMK party MLA from Gummidipoondi Assembly constituency was shot dead by dacoits at his house in Tiruvallur district.

UTTAR PRADESH

Assassination of MLA: On 25 January 2005, unidentified assailants shot dead Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA Shri Raju Pal in Allahabad.

EVENTS ABROAD

BRAZIL

President of Chamber of Deputies: On 15 February 2005, Mr. Severino Cavalcanti was elected as the President of the Chamber of Deputies (the lower House of the bicameral Legislature).

BULGARIA

New Speaker: On 23 February 2005, Mr. Borislav Velikov was elected as the new Speaker of the National Assembly.

CHAD

New Prime Minister: On 3 February 2005, the Prime Minister, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat resigned from his post. The President, Mr. Idriss Deby appointed Mr. Pascal Yoadimnadji as the new Prime Minister.

CONGO

New Prime Minister: On 7 January 2005, the President, Mr. Denis Sassou-Nguesso appointed Mr. Isidore Mvouba, as the Prime Minister.

CROATIA

President Re-elected: Mr. Stipe Mesic was re-elected as the President for a second five-year term, election for which was held in two phases on 2 and 16 January 2005.

DENMARK

Election Results: In the elections to the 179-seat *Folketinget* (the unicameral Legislature) on 8 February 2005, the three-party ruling coalition of Prime Minister Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen's Liberal Party (V), the Danish People's Party (DF), and the Conservative People's Party (KF) won 94 seats. The party position following the elections is as follows: Liberal Party (V): 52; Social Democratic Party (SDP): 47; Danish People's Party (DF): 24; Conservative People's Party (KF): 18; Social Liberals (*Det Radikale Venstre*-RV): 17; Socialist People's Party (SF): 11; Red-Green Unity List (ELRG): 6; and Regional Seats: 4

ECUADOR

New President of Congress: On 5 January 2005, Mr. Omas Quintana Baquerizo was elected as the President of the National Congress (the unicameral Legislature).

GEORGIA

Death of Prime Minister: On 3 February 2005, the Prime Minister Mr. Zurab Zhvania, died due to gas leakage in his apartment. On 8 February 2005, Mr. Zurab Nogaideli was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

GREECE

New President: On 8 February 2005, Mr. Karolos Papoulias, was elected as the new President.

IRAQ

National Assembly Elections Results: Elections to the 275-seat transitional National Assembly to replace the interim Legislature selected by the National Conference in August 2004, were held on 30 January 2005. The party position following the elections is as follows: United Iraqi Alliance: 140; Kurdistan Alliance List: 75; Iraqi List: 40; Iraqis: 5: Iraqi Turkmen Front: 3 ; National Independent Cadres and Elite People's Union: 3; People's Union: 2; Islamic Kurdish Society: 2; Islamic Labour Movement in Iraq: 2 ; Islamic Democratic Alliance: 1 ; National Rafidain List: 1; and Reconciliation and Liberation Entity: 1.

MOLDOVA

Election Results: In the elections to the 101-seat *Parlamentul* (the unicameral Legislature) on 6 March 2005, the Communist Party of Moldova (PCM) won 56 seats. The Democratic Moldova Bloc (DMB) and the Christian Democratic Popular Party (PPCD) secured 34 and 11 seats, respectively.

MOZAMBIQUE

New President: On 2 February 2005, Mr. Armando Emilio Guebuza was sworn in as the new President, replacing Mr. Joaquim Chissano.

NAMIBIA

New President: On 21 March 2005, Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba was sworn in as the President, replacing Mr. Sam Nujoma.

NEPAL

Dismissal of Government: On 1 February 2005, King Gyanendra dismissed the Government led by Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba, and assumed direct control of the country.

PALESTINE

New President Elected: On 9 January 2005, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas Abu Mazan was elected as the President of the Palestine National Authority.

PORTUGAL

Election Results: The elections to the 226-seat Assembly of the Republic (the unicameral Legislature) were held on 20 February 2005. The party position following the elections is as follows: Socialist Party (PS): 120; Social Democratic Party (PSD): 72; Unified Democratic Coalition (CDU): 14; People's Party (PP): 12; and Left Bloc (BE): 8.

Prime Minister Sworn In: On 4 March 2005, Mr. Jose Socrates was sworn in as the Prime Minister.

THAILAND

Election Results: In the elections held on 6 February 2005, to the 500-seat House of Representatives, the ruling Thai Rak Thai (TRT-Thais Love Thais) secured 377 seats. The Democratic Party (DP) and Chart Thai (CT-Thai Nation) won 96 and 25 seats, respectively. The Mahachon Party (People's Party) managed to win 2 seats only.

TOGO

Death of President: On 5 February 2005, the President Mr. Gnassingbe Eyadema died following a cardiac arrest. Mr. Faure Gnassingbe was sworn in as the new President.

UKRAINE

New President: On 23 January 2005, Mr. Viktor Yushchenko was sworn in as the President.

New Prime Minister: On 4 February 2005, Mr. Yuliya Tymoshenko was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

President Bush Sworn In: On 20 January 2005, the President

Mr. George W. Bush was sworn in for a second successive four-year term of office following his victory in the 2004 Presidential election.

URUGUAY

New President: On 1 March 2005, Mr. Tabare Vazquez was sworn in as the President.

UZBEKISTAN

Election Results: Elections to the 120-seat Legislative Assembly (the Lower House) were held in two phases in December 2004 and January 2005. The party position following the elections is as follows: Liberal Democratic Party (LDP): 41; People's Democratic Party (HDP): 36; Self Sacrifice Party (Fidokorlar): 19; National Renaissance (MT): 11; and Adolat "Justice" Social Democratic Party (ASDP): 10; and Independents: 3.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

FOURTH SESSION

The Fourth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 25 February 2005, was adjourned on 24 March till 18 April to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of the Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The Session was adjourned *sine die* on 13 May 2005 and prorogued on 17 May 2005. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 25 February to 24 March* is given below.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Railway Budget, 2005-2006: Presenting the Railway Budget, 2005-2006 on 26 February 2005, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav stated that an ambitious plan had been drawn up to meet the increasing and emerging demands of the economy through the provision of world-class infrastructure. The Minister pledged to work not only towards streamlining the passenger services further and improving their quality but also to take a gamut of commercial, operational and investment-oriented initiatives in the freight sector to improve Railways' share in the transport sector.

The Minister stated that the physical as well as financial performance of the Railways during the first nine months of the current financial year had been excellent. On the freight front, Indian Railways had transported 438.36 million tonnes (MT) which was 31.21 million tonnes more than the traffic lifted during the corresponding period of the previous year. This implied a growth of 7.67 per cent over the previous year. The revised target for loading had been raised from 580 MT to 600 MT and

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* Sessional Review covering the rest of the period will be carried in the September 2005 issue of the *JPI* (Vol.LI, No.3); complete details regarding Question Hour and Obituary References will also be carried in the said issue

the revised freight earnings had also been increased from Rs. 28,745 crore to Rs. 30,450 crore. The Minister further stated that the current year's expected incremental freight loading of 43 MT was the highest achieved so far. Originating passenger traffic had also registered a growth of around 6 per cent as compared to the Budgetary target of 3 per cent. The total earnings till the end of December 2004, stood at Rs. 33,900 crore. This represents an 8.3 per cent growth over the last year's as against a growth of 4.1 per cent registered in the previous financial year. The total earnings of Revised Estimates stood at Rs. 46,635 crore which was higher by Rs. 1,838 crore as compared to the Budget Estimates.

The Minister stated that concerted efforts of the Ministry of Railways had also resulted in a two-fold increase in realization of outstanding dues over the previous year. With the anticipated clearance of Rs. 150 crore, the budgeted gross traffic receipts of Rs. 44,902 crore would increase to Rs. 46,785 crore.

Regarding improvement in freight train examination and wagons maintenance practices, the Minister stated that, infrastructural facilities would be upgraded at the freight train examination centres, particularly those for the close circuit rakes. The Minister ensured that this would reduce the detentions during examination of freight trains, improve the quality of train examinations and enhance the safety. Also, several public-private partnership initiatives were being taken to pool resources through non-traditional methods for the modernization and development of the railways and to provide enhanced facilities for the users.

Regarding telephone lines pertaining to railway enquiry, the Minister said that an attempt had been made to expand their reach upto the village level by modernizing the train enquiry system and opening call centres at Patna. Under this initiative, people from any corner of Bihar could enquire about the arrival and departure of trains, reservation status, fare, concessions, etc., by dialling a universal telephone number at local call rates. The Minister informed that same facility would be extended throughout the country by the end of 2005-2006 so that both the urban and rural people would be able to get the desired information.

The Minister told that an Integrated Railways Modernization Plan (IRMP) spanning five years upto 2010 had been formulated. The various modernization initiatives envisaged under this plan include track modernization and its maintenance practices, modernization of Bridge Management System, signalling and telecommunication system, mechanical and electrical system and the disaster management system, etc. The total

expenditure envisaged for execution of the identified items in the IRMP was about Rs. 24,000 crore.

The Minister stated that considerable progress had been made in the execution of works sanctioned under the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). Rs. 6504 crore had already been spent upto 31 March 2004 and Rs. 3645 crore were likely to be spent during the current financial year making a total of Rs. 10,149 crore.

Coming to the Annual Plan, 2005-2006 the Minister stated that the Plan outlay for 2005-2006 had been fixed at Rs. 11,827 crore. Taking into account the outlay of Rs. 3,522 crore on safety related works through the SRSF, the total outlay comes to Rs. 15,349 crore, which was Rs. 851 crore more than the outlay of last year. To improve the productivity and efficiency of the Indian Railways, the Prime Minister had directed the Planning Commission to allow the Ministry of Railways to access extra budgetary resources to the extent of Rs. 3000 crore. For the year 2005-2006, the total funds received from the General Exchequer was Rs. 7,230.81 crore, which included Rs. 2,699 crore for SRSF, Rs. 710.81 crore from the Central Road Fund leaving a net budgetary support of Rs. 3,821 crore for distribution to different plan heads.

In addition to the budgetary support, the Minister proposed to provide Rs. 4,718 crore for plan expenditure through internal resource generation which was higher than what was budgeted for previous year by 990 crore. The market borrowing targeted for 2005-2006 was Rs. 3,400 crore. For the SRSF, the contribution of the Central Government would be supplemented by Railways' own contribution which was expected to be Rs. 823 crore, which made the total outlay under SRSF to Rs. 3,522 crore.

The total outlay for the five major plan project heads this year had been kept at Rs. 2,185 crore with Rs. 658 crore on New Lines, Rs. 645 crore on Gauge Conversion, Rs. 505 crore for Doubling, Rs. 102 crore for Electrification and Rs. 275 crore for Metropolitan Transport Projects.

Coming to the Budget Estimates for 2005-2006, the Minister stated that the Railways were expecting to carry 635 MT of revenue earnings. The originating passenger traffic was estimated to go up by about 4 per cent, which would result in increasing the earnings by 7.4 per cent. The 'Other Coaching' earnings were expected to grow by 10 per cent. The 'Sundry Other' earnings were expected to grow by 5 per cent. On the basis of these assumptions, the Gross Traffic Receipts (GTR) were estimated at Rs. 50,968 crore. This was Rs. 4,183 crore higher than the

Revised Estimates of the current financial year. Railways' Ordinary Working Expenses were estimated at Rs. 35,600 crore, 7 per cent more than the revised estimates of the current year. The total Working Expenses would amount to Rs. 46,144 crore leading to the Net Traffic Receipts of Rs. 4,824 crore, Taking together the effect of Net Miscellaneous Receipts, the Net Revenue worked out to Rs. 5,914 crore.

The combined discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2005-2006; Demands for Grants on Account (Railways), 2005-2006; Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2004-2005 took place on 10,11,14,15 and 20 March 2005.

Initiating the discussion on 10 March 2005, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged that no efforts had been made to improve the interlocking signal system. There was no special scheme for railway safety. The funds for railway safety were declining continuously. The budgetary provision for modernization had been slashed down, though it had been emphasized in the Rail Budget. She also alleged that repair and maintenance of stations should have been a Rs. 5 crore project but only Rs. 5 lakh had been allocated for the same.

Participating in the discussion* Shri Rajesh Verma (BSP), while supporting the Railway Budget demanded that the Sitapur to Lucknow

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri K. V. Thangkabalu, Ramji Lal Suman, Raghunath Jha, K.C. Palanisamy, Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, Adityanath, Sachin Pilot, Tathagata Satpathy, Alakesh Das, Anwar Hussain, Prabodh Panda, Rajnarayan Budholiya, Prahlad Venkatesh Joshi, Jai Prakash, Sitaram Singh, Raja Ram Pal, P. Mohan, Laxminarayan Pandey, Karan Chan Singh (Baba), Rewati Raman Singh, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Prabhunath Singh, E. Ponnuswamy, Subhash Maharia, Ram Kripal Yadav, Avinash Rai Khanna, Chaudhary Lal Singh, Mohan Singh, Brajesh Pathak, Bhanwar Singh Dangawas, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Subrata Bose, Nikhil Kumar Choudhary, N. Y. Hanumanthappa, Chandra Bhan Singh, Alok Kumar Mehta, Suraj Singh, Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil, Avtar Singh Bhadana, Chengara Surendran, S. Ajaya Kumar, P. Karunakaran, V.K. Thummar, Sunil Khan, Ananta Nayak, Rakesh Singh, Chandra Bhan Singh, Bikram Keshari Deo, Ram Singh Kaswan, Kailash Meghwal, Manvendra Singh, C. Krishnan, Dharmendra Pradhan, Bijendra Singh, Rupchand Pal, Abdul Rashid Shaheen, Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Krishna Murari Moghe, Tapir Gao, Salarapathy Kuppusamy Kharventhan, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Ananth Kumar, Shailendra Kumar, Dushyant Singh, Virendra Kumar, P.C. Gaddigoudar, Lonappan Nambadan, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Raghuvir Singh Kaushal, Madaiah Shivanna, Pusp Jain, Arjun Charan Sethi, Brahmananda Panda, Parasnath Yadav, Tufani Saroj, Pradeep Gandhi, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Illyas Azmi, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, Chandramani Tripathi, Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, Pushpdan Shambhudan Gadhavi, Lalmani Prasad, Shafiqur Rahman Barq, A.P. Abdullakutty, Shrichand Kriplani, Surendra Prakash Goyal, Sai Prathap Annayyagari, Mohan Jena, Sarbananda Sonowal, Harisingh Nasaru Rathod, K.S. Manoj, N.S.V. Chittan, Mahesh Kumar Kanodia, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Ganesh Singh, Kunnur Manjunath Channappa, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Santosh

meter gauge line might be converted into broad gauge. He also stated that this conversion would open the fourth route from Delhi to Patna instead of three.

Shri L. Ganesan (MDMK), stated that Government had not paid any attention towards increasing the allocation for the Special Railway Project Fund. Also, there was lack of concrete modernization plan for the Railways. There was no mention in the Budget about the Government's effort towards improving the passenger amenities either.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) stated that despite having been endowed with abundant mineral resources, Orissa had inadequate rail infrastructure. The Minister of Railways was requested to include the Jharsuguda-Himgir, Jharsuguda-Barsuan/Kiriburu, and Rourkela-Naugaon sections in the jurisdiction of Sambalpur. He also demanded that all the requirements of infrastructural development for the East Cost Railways might be completed expeditiously.

Shri Joachim Baxla (RSP) commended the Budget stating it to be a balanced and pro-people Budget and requested the Minister to start the Alipurduar-Ranchi train at an early date.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar of Janata Dal (Secular) alleged that Kerala had been ignored in the Budget and especially the Malabar area was totally neglected. He said that the extension of Trivandrum–Delhi, Kerala Express to Chandigarh was in no way beneficial to Keralites and there was need for more Delhi-Kerala trains. He demanded that the construction work of seven over bridges proposed between Calicut and Mangalore might be expedited.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma (AGP) stated that Assam was the gateway for the entire North-Eastern region and to ease traffic congestion in the region, gauge conversion of the railway track from New Jalpaiguri to Guwahati was required to be done. He also demanded creation of a separate railway zone for the entire North-Eastern region. Regarding railway recruitment policy, he said that a separate policy for the Group

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Kumar Gangwar, Dhanuskodi Athithan, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Suresh Chandel, Dhal Chandra Yadav, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Dr. M. Jagannath, Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Dr. Ram Krishna Kusmaria, Dr. (Col.) (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Prof. Chander Kumar, Prof. Basudeb Barman, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shrimati C.S. Sujatha, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan, Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari, Shrimati Kalpana Ramesh Narhire, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Shrimati Minati Sen, Shrimati Manorama Madhwaraj, Shrimati P. Satheedevi, Shrimati Pratibha Singh, Shrimati Susmita Bauri, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo and Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

'C' and 'D' posts should be declared for the entire country so that every region could get equitable representation in employment.

Shri Basudeb Acharia (CPI-M) urged the Railway Minister to take steps to provide rakes for the movement of coal and iron ore to the crisis facing industries of West Bengal. He demanded increase in the number of platforms at Howrah station which was facing the problem of congestion. He submitted to the Minister to recognize the unions in the Railways.

Replying to the discussion on 15 March 2005, the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad stated that Indian Railways had achieved more growth rate than the economy of the country. As against the targeted growth of 3 per cent in passenger transportation for the current year, the Indian Railways had achieved 6 per cent growth. He assured the House that Indian Railways would be brought at par with the best railways in the world. The Minister stated that he had announced various schemes for private/public participation to mobilise additional resources from the non-conventional sources for the development of the Indian Railways and to provide better amenities to the passengers. The Minister informed the members that various important steps had been taken towards railway safety, as a result of which there had been decline in railway accidents.

The Minister clarified that he had not discriminated against any particular State while allocating funds for the projects. He said that 54 new trains had been introduced.

Later, all the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) and all the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) were voted in full. The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2005; and the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2005 were also passed.

The Budget (General) 2005-2006: Presenting the Budget for the year 2005-2006 on 28 February 2005, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram expressed his deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by the Tsunami tragedy. He said that the Government had approved relief packages worth Rs. 3,644 crore. The Planning Commission, which was coordinating the Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Programme, had drawn up a programme at the estimated cost of Rs. 10,216 crore.

Coming to the economy, the Minister said that the economy had registered a growth rate of 8.5 per cent in the year 2003-2004, which was merely 4 per cent in the previous year. This growth rate was largely due to the restoration of output in the agriculture and allied sector.

Notwithstanding the high growth rate there were several disturbing trends, which had come to notice in May 2004. There was liquidity overhang at the end of 2003-2004, which had spilled over to 2004-2005. Secondly, there was inflationary pressure due to the rise in global petroleum prices. The third was an unanticipated 13 per cent deficit monsoon. Lastly, there was decline in business confidence leading to sharp down-turn to the new investment.

The Minister said that according to the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate in the current year was estimated at 6.9 per cent, with the manufacturing sector expected to grow at 8.9 per cent. Business confidence had been restored and investments in 2004-2005 had been buoyant. Non-food credit had been increased by 21.2 per cent.

The allocation for education in 2005-2006 would be Rs. 18,337 crore. The plan allocation for rural development would be Rs. 18,334 crore. The subsidy for fertilizers had been estimated at Rs. 16,254 crore, and the estimated expenditure on health and family welfare would be Rs. 10,280 crore.

The Minister stated that the central theme that ran through the various schemes and programmes was aimed at creating jobs. Irrigation facilities to an additional one crore hectares of land over a period of five years would generate employment for an additional one crore people. The food processing industry would generate 2.5 lakh jobs per year, the textile sector would create 1.2 crore jobs over the next five years, the information technology (IT) would create an additional 70 lakh jobs by 2009 while the construction industry was expected to create lakhs of jobs.

The Minister announced that the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) would be launched in the next fiscal year, focusing on strengthening primary health care through grass-root level public health interventions based on the community ownership. The total allocation for the Department of Health and the Department of Family Welfare would be increased from Rs. 8,420 crore in the current year to Rs. 10,280 crore in the next year. Work on six AIIMS-like institutions would be starting next year to augment medical education in deficient States.

The Minister said that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme which was the cornerstone of the Government's intervention in basic education for all children had been allocated Rs. 3,057 crore in the Budget estimates for 2004-2005. The allocation had been enhanced to Rs. 4,754. A non-lapsable fund called "Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh" had been created for funding this programme.

The Minister stated that for the first time in the Budget a separate statement on schemes for the development of SCs and STs had been mentioned and Rs. 6,253 crore had been allocated for the programme. On the basis of the proposal of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), the Minister announced the establishment of a Backward Region Grant Fund. An allocation of Rs. 5,000 crore had been made in the Plan for the year 2005-2006 and an equal amount would be allocated every year in the next four years.

Referring to the President's address to the Parliament, which had outlined an overarching vision known as 'Bharat Nirman' to build India, the Minister said a business plan had been conceived which would be implemented over a period of four years. It had six components namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity. The Government had set targets to achieve in each of these areas by the year 2009.

The Minister said that in the last Budget, he had significantly liberalized the capital subsidy scheme and a provision of Rs. 135 crore was made for the "Promotion of Small Scale Industries Schemes". That provision had been enhanced to Rs. 173 crore in 2005-2006. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) had established a small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Growth Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore. Small and medium units in knowledge-based industries such as pharma, biotech, and IT would be provided equity support through this fund.

Regarding foreign trade, the Minister said that in April-January 2004-2005 exports and imports had grown by 25.55 per cent and 34.72 per cent, respectively in dollars terms. The Government had fixed an ambitious target of US dollar 150 billion for exports by the year 2008-2009 in order to double India's share in the world exports to 1.5 per cent.

In the telecommunication sector, a provision of Rs. 1,200 crore had been made for 2005-2006. Under the Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund, nearly 1,687 subdivisions would get support. For rural household telephones, 5.20 lakh village public telephones (VPTs) had been installed so far and BSNL had undertaken to provide VPTs in the next three years to the remaining 66,822 revenue villages.

The Minister informed that 5,172 kms of National Highway had been four-laned till January 2005 under the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) I and NHDP II. In the next fiscal year, NHDP III would be launched. This would target selected high density highways

not forming part of the Golden Quardilateral or the North-South and East-West Corridors. For this purpose Rs. 1,400 crore had been provided for the year 2005-2006 to construct 4,000 kms of four-lane highway. As a special package for the North-Eastern region Rs. 450 crore had been allocated. In overall terms, the outlay for National Highway development had been increased from Rs. 6,514 crore in Budget Estimates for 2004-2005 to Rs. 9,320 crore in 2005-2006.

In the year 2005-2006, a massive programme for rural electrification had been started with the objective of covering 1.25 lakh villages during the next five years. The Minister informed that the Government had provided Rs. 1,100 crore for this programme.

The Minister stated that allocation for the Indira Awas Yojana had been increased from Rs. 2,500 crore in the current year to Rs. 2,750 crore in the Budget Estimates for 2005-2006. The Government had planned to construct about 15 lakh houses during the next year.

In the Budget Estimates for 2005-2006, the Plan expenditure had been estimated at Rs. 172,500 crore. However, the Budget showed the plan expenditure at Rs. 143,497 crore and the balance amount of Rs. 29,003 crore was to be raised as loans by the State Governments directly. The non-Plan expenditure was estimated at Rs. 3,70,847 crore. In the Budget Estimates for 2005-06 the total expenditure was estimated at Rs. 514,344 crore. Total revenue receipts of the Central Government was estimated at Rs. 351,200 crore and the revenue expenditure at Rs. 446,512 crore. The revenue deficit was estimated at Rs. 95,312 crore which was equal to 2.7 per cent of the estimated GDP. The fiscal deficit was estimated at Rs. 1,51,144 crore which was 4.3 per cent of the estimated GDP.

Stating that the Budget was an attempt to lay down a path in which growth and equity would reinforce each other, the Minister expressed hope that the Budget would build a new India.

The general and combined discussion on the Budget (General) 2005-2006; Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2005-2006; and Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2004-2005 took place on 15, 16 and 17 March 2005.

Initiating the discussion on 15 March 2005, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra (BJP) stated the Budget as anti-women, anti-senior citizen and anti-government servants since the provisions for standard deduction and interest over the income had been done away with. He also called the Budget as anti-farmers since nothing much had been done for them either.

He criticized the Government for not enacting the National Employment Guarantee Act which was mentioned in the National Common Minimum Programme. Instead of increasing the allocation for Employment Programmes, the allocation for these programmes had been reduced in the Budget.

He expressed his unhappiness over the delay in setting up of the Sixth Pay Commission and said that it should be done immediately for the benefit of the employees. He alleged that no concrete step had been taken to unearth black money and the Government's decision to delete 112 items from the small scale industries would affect crores of people who would be rendered jobless. Also, the allocation made for the Defence in the Budget was nothing but a meagre enhancement. While summing up he remarked that the Budget was prepared taking into account the needs of handful of minorities and on the whole it was totally anti-people.

Participating in the discussion* on 16 March 2005, Kumari Mamata Banerjee (AITC) stated that this Government was least interested in providing social security to the citizens of the country. In the name of globalisation, interest of the common people, farmers, unemployed

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, Rupchand Pal, Mohan Singh, Alok Kumar Mehta, Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao, Harin Pathak, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Suresh Chandel, Anantha Venkatarami Reddy, Kavuru Samba Siva Rao, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Bikram Keshari Deo, Madhusudan Mistry, P. Karunakaran, Ramjilal Suman, Ajay Makan, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Anandrao Vithoba Adsul, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Shailendra Kumar, Nikhil Kumar, Lakshman Singh, Munshiram, Kirip Chaliha, Manvendra Singh, Sitaram Singh, Manoranjan Bhakta, Narayan Chandra Borkataky, Parasnath Yadav, Sandeep Dikshit, Pushpdan Shambhudan Gadhavi, Brajesh Pathak, N.S.V. Chittan, Gurudas Das Gupta, Sukhbir Singh Badal, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Ganesh Singh, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, M.A.Kharabela Swain, Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh, Dawa Narbula, Suresh Chandel, Abdul Rashid Shaheen, Prasanna Acharya, Ratilal Kalidas Varma, Kailash Meghwal, Salarapathy Kuppusamy Kharventhan, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Ram Kripal Yadav, E.G. Sugavanam, Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Gingee N. Ramachandran, Virendra Kumar, Karan Chan Singh (Baba), Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Vinod Kumar Boianapalli, Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Asaduddin Owaisi, Lal Mani Prasad, Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary, K.V.Thangka Balu, Mohammad Shahid, Ramdas Athawale, Iliyas Azmi, Harisingh Nasaru Rathod, Karunakara G. Reddy, Tek Lal Mahto, Ramji Lal Suman, J.M. Aaron Rashid, Pradeep Gandhi, Rakesh Singh, Raghuvir Singh Kaushal, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, Nikhil Kumar Choudhary, Sambasiva Rayapati Rao, Bapu Hari Chaure, Chandramani Tripathi, Tufani Saroj, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Dr. Sebastian Paul, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, Dr. Chinta Mohan, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, Dr. C. Krishnan, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Prof. Mahadeo Rao Shiwankar, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Shrimati Karuna Shukla, Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi, Shrimati P. Jaya Prada Nahata, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran, Shrimati Krishna Tirath, Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari, Shrimati Neeta Pateriya, Shrimati K. Rani and Dr. (Smt) Tejaswini Seeramesh.

youth, salaried class, including the senior citizens were being finished. Although there were some good schemes for the poor people, money could never reach them because of the presence of the middlemen. She urged the Government to look into all these matters for the benefit of the common man.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar [Janata Dal (Secular)], cautioned the Government over the policy regarding FDI. He questioned the necessity of opening the service sector to the multinationals when the people of our own country could run and manage it. He further added that development did not mean surrendering country's rights, sovereignty and destiny to the multinational companies.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) stated that the Budget had addressed the issues of economic growth and social justice to the common men and downtrodden people. He commended the Bharat Nirman Scheme as a laudable effort of the Government to revive the rural areas. He praised the Minister for increasing both the capital expenditure and revenue expenditure.

Shri Rajesh Verma (BSP) appreciated the Finance Minister for fixing the Income Tax limit to Rs. One lakh and also for raising the relief limit from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 4 crore for the small industries. He supported the ban on import of flowers. He demanded further enhancement of the fund allocated to Rural Road Scheme.

Shri Joachim Baxla (RSP) supported the provision of loans for the farmers made in the Budget but pointed out that no initiative had been taken for providing the support price to them. Criticizing the hike in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit which had been made upto 74 per cent in the insurance, telecom and banking sector, he said this would dilute our control in these sectors.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) criticised the Budget stating it to be anti-farmer. He said that Indian farmers were committing suicide and they were not getting Minimum Support Price. He suggested that interlinking of the rivers would solve the problems both of drinking and irrigational waters and requested the Finance Minister to concentrate on agriculture to boost the economy and achieve the target of 7-8 per cent committed in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Shri Bir Singh Mahato (AIFB) welcomed the proposal regarding creation of the Backward Region Grant Fund. He criticized the decision to de-reserve 180 items of small-scale industries. He pointed out that no provision had been made in the Budget regarding the revival of public sector units and traditional industrial units.

Replying to the discussion on 17 March 2005, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram stated that what permeated through this Budget were the principles of growth, stability and equity. The Government had not strayed from the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The allocation for the NCMP had been increased by Rs. 25,000 crore. The Minister assured that if there was a high growth rate this year and then again in the year 2006-2007 then more funds would be allocated to the NCMP.

The Minister stated that the bank credit during 2004-2005 had been increased by Rs. 2,39,784 crore. This money was being invested into manufacturing, infrastructure, service and trade. In Agriculture, the Government had set a target of Rs. 1,05,000 crore and that would be extended to Rs. 1,08,000 crore. For the rural India, targets of the five major schemes of the Government were: Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana Rs. 4,000 crore; the National Food for Work Programme–Rs. 6,000 crore; the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana–Rs. 958 crore; Rural Housing–Rs. 2,769 crore; and for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana–Rs. 4,232 crore.

The Minister stated that philosophy of the Budget was based on the investment, growth, stability and equity. This Budget like any other Budget would succeed only if the States cooperate. He, therefore, appealed to all the States to improve their governance. He requested the States to reduce the cost of lending by the cooperative banks. In this context, he said that Public Sector Banks were also being requested to bring down their lending rates.

All the Demands for Grants on Account (General), all the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) were voted in full. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005; and the Appropriation Bill, 2005 were passed.

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address: On 25 February 2005, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal of the Indian National Congress on 2 March 2005. The discussion on the Motion took place on 2, 9 and 10 March 2005.

Moving the motion, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal (INC) said that people of India had voted for secular and progressive forces in the fourteenth Lok Sabha elections. After the UPA Government took over, the share market crashed sharply. Later it recovered, which reflected the

genuine confidence of our economy. The UPA Government had dedicated itself to Bharat Nirman and its policies would see that the economy grew by at least 7 to 8 per cent in a sustained manner.

Shri Bansal stated that the Government would increase investment in rural infrastructure and step up credit flow to the farmers. In order to ensure safe drinking water the UPA Government had set up a National Drinking Water Mission. A National Committee on Rural Infrastructure had been set up to ensure that urban amenities and facilities were made available in rural areas. In the urban sector, the Government had set up a Mission on Urban Renewal. The Government had decided 100 per cent FDI in the construction sector with a clear ban on the sale of undeveloped land by the foreign investors.

Shri Bansal stated that for a National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, legislation had been introduced in the Parliament to provide at least 100 days work to one member in a rural family. The National Policy on Education had set a target of spending 6 per cent of the GDP every year. Since the total expenditure on education by the Central and State Governments did not exceed more than 3.74%, the Government introduced a 2 per cent education cess on all the taxes. The Government had proposed to launch a National Rural Health Mission towards achieving the goal of Health for All. The Government had also decided to expand the coverage of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and draft National Action Plan for the Children had also been prepared.

Regarding the Right to Information Bill, Shri Bansal stated that Prime Minister, being a strong advocate of transparency in the working of the Government, wanted to offer people's access to the information on Government's working as their right. Therefore, the Right to Information Bill, 2004 was introduced.

He, while praising the Government for maintaining peace in the society, stated that an environment of communal harmony, non-violence, security and peace prevailed in the country to take up well thought out plans to realize the real potential of India.

Seconding the motion, Shri Ajay Makan (INC) said that keeping up with the President's remarks that with the dawn of the new millennium a knowledge revolution was taking place, the Government had taken a lead in this direction. The budgetary allocation for education had been increased from Rs. 7,025 crore to Rs. 13,928.81 crore. He further stated that to strengthen the manufacturing sector, the Government had reduced the custom duties on selected capital goods. Regarding commitments towards rural infrastructure development, National Rural

Health Mission had been constituted. The UPA Government had also constituted a new Panchayati Raj Ministry. Also, the National Employment Guarantee Bill or the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was formed to give birth to a new kind of planning culture in our country. He stated that to help the rural India, Government would double the amount of agriculture credit and also give due importance on restoration of water bodies and water harvesting.

Participating in the discussion* Shri Basudeb Acharia (CPI-M) stated that the President's Address had talked about rural India and the Government was therefore committed to give a new deal to rural India. There had been decline in the agricultural growth in the last three consecutive years. The average number of days work for agricultural workers had also declined all over the country. He demanded implementation of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. He also urged the Government to enact legislation to legitimize the stay of adivasis and tribals living in the forests.

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav (SP) stated that the budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector had been declining continuously. More than 60 per cent of the Nationalised Banks had not implemented the directive of RBI, which had recommended that at least 18 per cent of the total loan had to be allocated to the farmers. Also, due to strict Bank Loan process farmers had to approach the local moneylenders and being unable to pay back the loan amount they commit suicide. Even the interest rates of the Banks were not reduced and the farmers were not getting remunerative prices of their produces. Animal husbandry sector was also being neglected for the last many years.

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD) stated that his party had always supported friendly relations between India and Pakistan. He congratulated Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for his efforts towards further improvement in the relations with Pakistan.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri George Fernandes, Madhusudan Mistry, Alok Kumar Mehta, Brajesh Pathak, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Gurjeet Singh Rana, Ajay Chakraborty, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Bachi Singh Rawat, N. N. Krishnadas, Shailendra Kumar, Virendra Kumar, S. K. Kharventhan, A. V. Bellarmin, A.K.S. Vijayan, Parasnath Yadav, Ravinder Naik Dharavath, Pradeep Gandhi, Madan Lal Sharma, Ravichandran Sippiparai, Madaiah Shivanna, Ganesh Singh, Francis Fanthome, Hiten Barman, Abdul Rashid Shaheen, Sarbananda Sonowal, Chandramani Tripathi, J.M. Aron Rashid, Asaduddin Owaisi, W. Wangyuh Konyak, Tathagata Satpathy, Harisingh Nasaru Rathod, Bikram Keshari Deo, Lt. Col. (Retd) Maharaja Manbendra Shah, Choudhary Lal Singh, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. Chinta Mohan, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Raman Senthil, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) raised the issue of suicide committed by the farmers and the weavers throughout the country and more particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. He also raised the issue of law and order problem in Andhra Pradesh and urged the Government to intervene in the matter. He stated that to achieve Bharat Nirman, development of rural India and interlinking of rivers were important.

Shri L.K. Advani (BJP) complimented the security forces for rendering their services during the Tsunami disaster. He disagreed with the President's Address that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and Naxalite infected areas was under control. He said that Naxalite violence was such a phenomenon which should not be considered as a law and order problem only. In such matters, the Government should take advice of all the political parties. On the issue of internal security, he remarked that the Government's approach was a total failure. He said that events in Nepal had strengthened the Maoist forces there which had a repercussion in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Regarding dual citizenship to the people of Indian origin residing in different parts of the world, he stated that due to security reasons dual citizenship should be given to Indians living in certain specific countries and not to all. He said that persons from Pakistan and Bangladesh should not be given the dual citizenship.

Replying to the discussion, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that President's Address had outlined the steps that the Government had taken during the period of nine months to fulfil the promises it had made in the National Common Minimum Programme. He informed the House that the Government had prepared a 'Report of the People', for the first time ever, which had outlined the steps that had been taken to implement the National Common Minimum Programme.

The Prime Minister stated that the basic thrust of the Government's economic policy was to promote a self-reliant, progressive humane and egalitarian society. On the economic front, the Government's efforts to steer Indian economy to a high growth path were bearing fruit. The two most important goals of the economic policy of the Government were to check the inflation and to generate employment. The Prime Minister said that despite drought and rise in the international petroleum prices, inflation had dipped below five per cent. The investments showed confidence of the investors in the future of Indian economy. He expressed his concern over the fiscal and revenue deficits and hoped that the Center and the State Governments would work together and

evolve a national consensus in dealing with the fiscal challenge. He stated that the foundation of a successful country rested on a healthy economy, sound polity, strong institutions and a harmonious society. The Government was committed to strengthen all these basic foundations of the Indian republic.

The Prime Minister referred to the seven priority areas mentioned in the President's Address–agriculture, employment, education, health care, water, urban renewal and infrastructure. He said that sustainable and equitable growth could be achieved only through public and private investment in these seven areas. Education cess imposed by the Government showed the importance it had given to the educational programmes. Also, high priority had been given to revamp the public health in rural India. The "Bharat Nirman" programme outlined in the President's Address and the Budget speech gave a concrete shape to the Government's commitment towards achieving tangible outcomes in irrigation, housing, rural roads, drinking water, electricity and telecommunication connectivity by the year 2009.

The Prime Minister stated that the Government had worked hard to improve the internal security situation in India. A comprehensive and systematic approach had been developed regarding all the internal security issues, whether they were related to the left-wing extremism or militancy in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir. Developments in India's neighbourhood were also a matter of concern and the Government was taking a lead role in developing a coordinated approach to that problem. Regarding Pakistan, he stated that composite dialogues were under discussion and both were moving forward.

All the amendments were negatived and the motion was adopted.

Discussion under rule 193 regarding developments in Nepal and visits of Minister of External Affairs to Afghanistan and Pakistan: Initiating the discussion on 21 March 2005, Shri C. K. Chandrappan of the Communist Party of India said that certain unfortunate events had taken place in Nepal. The ruling Prince, Shri Gyanendra had taken over the administration of that country and an unadulterated dictatorship had been imposed on the people of Nepal under the pretext of Maoist terrorism in that country. He urged that support might be given to the people of Nepal in restoring democracy in their country. He appreciated Government's effort towards improving the relations between India and Pakistan. Referring to the US policy towards Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and North Korea, he urged that India should clarify its stand by not

supporting the imperialist attitude of the United States but uphold the traditional policy of friendship, peace and non-alignment.

Participating in the discussion* Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (S.S.) stated that it was a matter of pride that there was no political controversy over India's foreign policy and all the Governments since Independence had been following the same policy. He supported the stand taken by all the parties that there should be restoration of democracy in Nepal and Nepal should be kept as India's ally. Towards India's relations with Pakistan he stated, friendship was always bilateral. He expressed his anguish saying that while the Indian Government was constantly endeavouring to have good relations with Pakistan, no response from Pakistan was in sight. As such, there was a need to take utmost care of our foreign policy.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri K. Natwar Singh said that relations between Nepal and India were cordial since ancient times. It was, therefore, necessary to tread very cautiously and carefully in this regard. India had already rendered its views to the king regarding the political developments in Nepal and had requested him to start the democratic process at the earliest and also to release all the political prisoners.

He said that India had a very close relationship with the Royal Nepal Army. India was constantly reviewing the policy of military aid to Nepal. The emergence of Maoists in the Nepalese politics had complicated the politics of the land. He however, assured the House that nothing would be done which would in anyway cause any kind of permanent strain in the relationship between the two countries.

Regarding Afghanistan, the Minister said that India's relation with Afghanistan was centuries old. Today, Afghanistan was facing a serious crisis. Afghanistan had witnessed the war for the last 25-26 years but the recently held election showed a ray of hope. The Minister was of the opinion that increasing trade relations both with Nepal and Afghanistan would change the entire atmosphere and political connections would take place automatically.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sandeep Dikshit, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Ramji Lal Suman, Narendra Kumar Kushwaha, Nikhilananda Sar, Kavuru Samba Siva Rao, Prabodh Panda, Mohan Singh, Ramdas Athawale, Manvendra Singh, Chandramani Tripathi, Rajagopal Lagadapati, Sukdeo Paswan, Ramkripal Yadav, Suresh Chanabasapa Angadi, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Rajesh Ranjan, Adityanath, Lt. Col. (Retd) Maharaja Manbendra Shah, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra.

With regard to India's relations with Pakistan, he stated that the Congress Party had unequivocally supported the steps taken by the NDA Government during 1999-2004. The UPA Government had carried forward those steps in a big way. It had offered 72 Confidence Building Measures to Pakistan and so far considerable progress had been made on some of the issues. Both the countries had agreed to start bus service from Srinagar to Muzaffarabad. Since India considered PoK as it's part, no passport or visa were required for the travellers but a mutual agreement had been arrived at in this direction. All checks and pre-verifications were however carried out as it was done for granting passports and visas. The Minister also felt that the increased trade relations between the two countries would raise the standard of living and the entire SAARC region would look different.

Discussion under Rule 193 regarding Natural Calamities in the Country: Initiating the discussion on 23 March 2005, Shri Rupchand Murmu (CPI-M) said that the country had suffered a huge loss due to Tsunami. He stated that in any type of natural calamity, three aspects– rescue, relief and rehabilitation were most important. Though relief measures were undertaken by the Central Government on a war footing, those were yet to reach all the affected areas. He demanded proper compensation for the fishermen and urged upon the Government to take immediate steps to make the land cultivable and rebuild the educational institutions and hospitals which were destroyed during the Tsunami.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Department of Ocean Development, Shri Kapil Sibal said that although scientific technology to set up a Tsunami Warning system was available, it could not predict the exact time and place where it was going to hit and what would be its impact. Therefore, a software programme had to be prepared and placed all along the fault line and then only the real time as to when the Tsunami would occur and at what point of time it would hit which part of the coast could be informed. This whole process he said, would take two-and-a-half years and the same would be collaborated and networked with all the neighbouring countries, including Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Maldives and South Africa. This would then be centralised at a particular station. He said that most of the constructions that took place in India were without any kind of structural protections that was required for an earthquake of high magnitude. He asked all the States to formulate bye-laws in this regard. He intimated that the

Government had a plan to set up a dedicated frequency, which would be able to communicate when all the contacts were broken. This would be placed at the national, state and district level.

Participating in the discussion* Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that Tsunami had caused a great loss to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry. He requested the Government to increase the budget allocation under the National Calamity Relief Fund. He also requested the Government to establish a Tsunami-warning centre either in Hyderabad or Vishakhapatnam. He appreciated the Government for its decision to create a Disaster Management Authority.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar of Janata Dal (Secular) said that Tsunami had hit the Kollam district of Kerala very badly. Although rehabilitation work had started there, relief was not reaching the masses. He requested for monitoring of the relief work and urgent rehabilitation of the fishermen, as they were the worst affected.

Replying to the discussion on 24 March 2005 the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil appreciated and thanked those who extended their help during the natural calamities. He stated that all the good suggestions made by the members on natural calamities had been taken note of and the Government had already started implementing many of them.

He informed the members that the Government had not shelved the project of linking of the rivers. The Government was also planning to set up Food Banks in the drought prone areas. Those villages which were devastated due to the Tsunami would be rehabilitated as per the new scientific system and town planning. So far as the construction of hospitals, schools, jetties and airports were concerned, the Minister

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Manvendra Singh, Manoranjan Bhakta, Shailendra Kumar, Sitaram Singh, Mahendra Prasad Nishad, A.K.S. Vijayan, B. Mahtab, M. Appadurai, R. Prabhu, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Bachi Singh Rawat, A. Krishnaswamy, P.S. Gadhavi, E. Poonuswamy, Rajnarayan Budholiya, Ganesh Singh, Madan Lal Sharma, Harisingh Nasaru Rathod, Chengara Surendran, Avinash Rai Khanna, Dhanuskodi Athithan, Chandramani Tripathi, Tapir Gao, J.M. Aaron Rashid, A. V. Bellarmin, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Sardar Zora Singh Mann, Mohammad Salim, Chaudhary Lal Singh, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, Dr. Alok Kumar Mehta, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Smt. K. Rani, Smt. Radhika Selvi, Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran, Smt. D Purandeswari and Dr. (Smt.) Tejaswini Seeramesh.

said that it required huge funds and in this regard a Committee of Planning Commission had been set up. Regarding the lands of farmers, a special plan had been formulated and the Government would arrange fertilizers, insecticides and proper drainage system to increase the fertility of soil. The Government had allotted a good amount of fund for this purpose.

The Minister stated that for the early disaster warning, the Department of Ocean Development had been assigned the task of setting up of an Early Disaster Warning System in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. The Government had also decided to set up a Disaster Management Authority and also to enact the National Disaster Management Act.

The Minister stated that for the rehabilitation work, funds were disbursed from the National Calamity Relief Fund and the National Contingency Fund. The 12th Finance Commission had however recommended that more funds should be allotted. Regarding the allocation of funds, the Minister emphasized that the Cabinet had decided that in case more funds were required those would also be provided. He also added that during calamities solution would be found and no efforts would be spared to see that the situation improves and such things do not recur.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 and The Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2005**: On 22 March 2005, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda' moved the Statutory Resolution stating that the House disapproved of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 promulgated by the President on 26 December 2004.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath moved the motion for consideration of the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath said that the Bill sought to amend the Patents Act 1970. The salient feature of the Bill was to introduce product patent protection in all fields of technology. It sought to modify the provisions relating to exclusive marketing rights (EMRs), since

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 18 March 2005

these were part of the transitional arrangements. It also sought to modify and clarify the provisions relating to patenting of the software related inventions when they had technical application to the industry or in combination with the hardware. It intended to modify the provisions relating to opposition procedure with a view to streamline the system by having both pre-grant and post-grant opposition in the Patent Office. It also intended to introduce a provision for enabling grant of compulsory licence for export of medicines to countries which had insufficient or no manufacturing capacity, to meet emergent public health situations. It proposed to amend and strengthen the provisions relating to national security to guard against patenting abroad of dual use technologies and also to amend the provisions relating to the Intellectual Property Appellate Board with a view to extending its jurisdiction to revocation of patent. It also sought to amend certain provisions with a view to harmonising them with the Patent Cooperation Treaty to which India was a signatory and to rationalize the provisions relating to time-lines with a view to reducing the processing time for patent applications, and to simplify the procedure.

Initiating the debate, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that the Bill was against the national interest and it would serve the interest of multinational companies. The product patent regime would cause not only shortage of medicines but also lead to steep rise in pharmaceutical drugs. He added that the Bill in its present form would be detrimental to the existence of domestic life saving drugs industries. He said that the pharmaceutical industry required a heavy capital input. The patented drugs of the multinational pharmaceutical companies were highly priced and it would effect the common people gravely. He demanded a provision in the Bill for safeguarding the interests of the whole-sellers and the drug producers. He urged the Government to address the lacunae left in the compulsory licensing provision. In order to check the flood of patent and frivolous applications in the country, right for pre-grant opposition required to be granted. If the amendments made in the Patents Bill were not given a retrospective effect, there would be a lacuna and all these amendments would become illegal. No time period had been fixed for the manufacturer to seek permission of the patent holder. He demanded that this time period as well as the royalty should be fixed; if 20 years had been earmarked for patenting the product than the compulsory licence should also be granted for the same period.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath stated that this process was initiated in the

year 1999 and he was carrying it forward. There can be difference of opinion regarding the Bill but taking the international scenario into consideration the Bill should be passed. All the issues raised in the discussion had already been discussed in the Joint Parliamentary Committee. He assured the House to solve all the doubts and apprehensions raised in the discussion.

Participating in the discussion* Shri C. Kuppusami (DMK) said that there was an apprehension in the minds of the people that once the amendment Bill was passed, prices of drug and other commodities which were of common use would also go up. He suggested that while carrying forward the reforms, steps should be taken to protect the national interest. The impact of the patent regime should be minimised. The Government should be vigilant and many common things which were being patented should be kept out of patent regime.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) expressed his apprehension and said the amendment Bill was dangerous for the rural people, common masses and particularly those who were in the agriculture sector. He wondered what would happen to the traditional medicines and chemical fertilizers that were being used by us for the last thousand of years after the Bill was effected. He said that the process of patenting does not augur well for the country. While opposing the Bill he demanded that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee for further discussion.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar of Janata Dal (Secular) said that the Patent Bill had ruled out to access to and availability of medicines at low price. The amendment would affect the agriculture sector the most. The multinational companies would monopolise the agriculture sector by patenting the seeds.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that he opposed the Bill, as it required an in-depth study. Due to cheap medical expenses, people from different countries were coming to India for their treatment. He said that the price of AIDS treating drugs would increase many fold once the Bill was passed. He said that Bill would benefit only the multi-

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Uday Singh, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Rupchand Pal, Ramjilal Suman, Alok Kumar Mehta, Lalmani Prasad, C.K. Chandrappan, George Fernandes, Jitin Prasada, Suresh Kurup, Mohan Singh, Ram Kripal Yadav, M.A. Kharabela Swain, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, P.C. Thomas and Smt. Maneka Gandhi.

national companies and destroy the Indian pharmaceutical industry. He sought to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee for an in-depth discussion.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee (All India Trinamool Congress) demanded that Bill be referred to the Standing Committee. She also sought the matter to be discussed in-depth with the representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, farmers and those who were related with Ayurvedic medicine research. She said that small pharmaceutical companies had invested a lot of money in research work and the Bill would hamper the research and development. The Bill would also cause rise in drug prices. She stated that the cheap Chinese goods had flooded the Indian market so Government must take care of the interests of the farmers and the domestic industry. She demanded a monitoring system to check the unreasonable price rise.

Shri Joachim Baxla (RSP) stated that our health care system neglects the poor masses of the society. He sought assurance from the Minister to take adequate measure to render relief to the poor ailing patients by evolving some concrete mechanism for providing subsidy and modern essential medicines to the poor.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath stated that India's export had increased many-fold since its accession to the WTO. Currently, India ranked second among the developing countries in patent filing. This shows remarkable progress we had made in this field. He further said that the G-20 members were studying the papers about the Patent Bill and India was providing technical expertise to these countries. He also said that he would refer the Bill to an expert group to see whether there was enough elasticity in the Bill to accommodate the opinions and whether these opinions were in the interest of the Indian pharmaceutical companies. Regarding the question whether our traditional knowledge had got any protection or not he said that the Bill had taken care of it and that no plants were coming under the patent regime. The Minister stated that he had tried to clarify the apprehensions of the members regarding the Bill and sought the support of the House to pass the Bill.

The Resolution was negatived and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced Second part of its First Session on 3 February 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 4 February 2005.**

Legislative business: During the Session, three Bills were discussed, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Arunachal Pradesh Goods Tax Bill, 2005; (ii) The Assam Frontier (Administration of Justice) Regulation Act 1945 (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iii) The Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Obituary reference: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India and Shri Tarung Pabin, former Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Assembly commenced its Second Session on 21 March 2005 and was adjourned *sine die* on 24 March 2005.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh addressed the House on 21 March 2005. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his address was moved by Shri R.K. Khrimey and seconded by Shri Nyato Rigia. Discussion on the motion took place on 22 March 2005 in which 15 members participated. The House unanimously adopted the motion.

Legislative business: During the Session the Arunachal University (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2005 was discussed, considered and passed by the House.

Financial business: On 21 March 2005 the Chief Minister Shri Gegong Apang, who is also the incharge of Finance portfolio presented the Annual Financial Statement (Budget Estimates) for the year 2005-2006. The General Discussion on the Budget took place on 23 March 2005. The Chief Minister also presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2004-2005.

The Demands for Grants for the year 2005-2006 and Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2004-2005, relating to various Departments

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* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** The First Part of the First Session was held from 25 to 26 October 2004

were moved and accepted in full. Subsequently connected Appropriation Bills were also introduced, considered and passed.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly commenced from 1 March 2005 and was adjourned *sine die* on 8 April 2005. There were 22 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, The Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2004 was introduced, considered and passed by the House on 9 March 2005 and the Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2005 was introduced, considered and passed by the House on 30 March 2005.

Financial business: On 7 March 2005, the Minister of State for Finance on behalf of the Chief Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriation for the year 2004-2005. The Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2004-2005 were voted and passed by the House on 9 March 2005.

On 11 March 2005, the Chief Minister who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department presented the Annual Financial Statement (Budget Estimate) for the year 2005-2006.

The four Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented their reports relating to different Demands for Grants before the House and after presentation of the said reports the voting on Demands for Grants took place in the House. On 30 March 2005 the Demands for Grants were passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of 9 leading personalities.

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The elections for the Thirteenth Bihar Legislative Assembly were held in three phases on 3, 15 and 23 February 2005. The notification for constitution of the thirteenth Legislative Assembly was issued on 4 March 2005. In pursuance of the order of the Governor the notification for dissolution of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly was issued on 6 March 2005. Following the President's order, based on the recommendation of the Governor the notification for suspension of Bihar legislative Assembly

* Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material supplied by the Bihar Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

was issued on 7 March 2005, since no party or coalition of parties was in a position to form the Government.

CHHATTISGARH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Second Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly which commenced its Fifth Session on 21 February 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 24 March 2005. There were 23 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Chhattisgarh addressed the House on 21 February 2005. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor was held for three days in which 18 members participated. The House adopted the Motion on 2 March 2005 after the reply to the discussion was given by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Chhattisgarh Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2005 (No. 1 of 2005); (ii) The Indian Stamp (Chhattisgarh Amendment) Bill, 2005 (No. 2 of 2005); (iii) The Chhattisgarh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2005 (No. 3 of 2005); (iv) The Chhattisgarh (Adhosanrachana Vikas Evam Paryavaran) Upkar Vidhaeyak, 2005 (No. 4 of 2005); (v) The Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (No. 5 of 2005); (vi) The Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya (Vetan, Bhatta tatha Pension) (Sansodhayan) Vidheyak, 2005 (No. 7 of 2005).

Financial business: On 24 February 2005 the statement of Second Supplementary Expenditure for the year 2004-2005 was presented. The Statement included 32 demands for grants. These demands for grants were discussed on the same day and Appropriation Bill, 2005 was introduced, discussed and passed by the House.

On 1 March 2005, the Finance Minister presented the Budget for the year 2005-2006. General discussion on the budget was held for five days. Demands for Grants were discussed till 21 March. On 22 March 2005, the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2005 was passed by the House.

Obituary reference: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri. P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Sarvashri Rama Konda and Kanhaiyalal Kosariya, both members of undivided Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Tributes were also paid to those who were killed in the Tsunami disaster.

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* Material supplied by the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Delhi Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Budget Session on 15 March 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 5 April 2005. There were 15 sittings in all.

Address by the Lieutenant Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri. B.L. Joshi addressed the House on 15 March 2005. The Motion of Thanks to the Lieutenant Governor's Address was moved on 16 March 2005 and adopted on 22 March 2005. Sixteen members participated in the debate which was replied by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following four Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Indian Stamps (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2005; (ii) The Delhi Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iii) The Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2005; and (iv) The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: On 23 March 2005 the Finance Minister presented the Annual Budget. The discussion on the Annual Budget commenced on 24 March 2005. It concluded on 30 March with the reply by the Finance Minister. The Budget was passed on the same day.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Surinder Singh and O.P. Jindal, Ministers in the Haryana Government; Pope John Paul - II; and the victims of the Tsunami disaster.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Goa Legislative Assembly which commenced its First Session of the year 2005 on 10 January 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 14 January 2005. The Governor prorogued the House on 24 January 2005. There were five sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Goa Shri S.C. Jamir addressed the House on 10 January 2005. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved on 11 January 2005 and the discussion on the Motion was held for three days. The Motion was adopted on 13 January 2005 with the reply by the Chief Minister to the debate.

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* Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat.
** Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Legislative business: During the Session eight Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Goa Value Added Tax Bill, 2003; (ii) The Goa Members of the Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iii) The City of Panaji Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iv) The Indian Stamp (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2005; (v) The Goa Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vi) The Goa Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vii) The Goa State Guarantees (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005; (viii) The Goa Reconstruction of Registers and Records Bill, 2005.

Financial business: The Supplementary Demands for Grants (Second Batch) 2004-05 were presented to the House on 10 January 2005 and discussion and voting took place on 11 January 2005. The connected Appropriation Bill was also passed on 11 January 2005. The Demands for Excess Grants for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 were also presented to the House on 10 January 2005. The discussion and voting on Demands for Excess Grants took place on 11 January 2005. The connected Appropriation Bills were also passed on 11 January 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Dr. Raja Ramanna, former Rajya Sabha member and Nuclear Scientist; Shri Dattopant Bapurao Thengadi, former member of the Rajya Sabha; J.N. Dixit, National Security Advisor; Bharat Ratna Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi, Classical Vocalist; Smt. Shoba S. Gurtu, Indian Classical Vocalist; Sarvashri Laxmikant Berde, noted actor; Vijay Samuel Hazare, former Cricketer; Cristiano Junior, footballer; and Lancy Sequeira, athletic coach. Tributes were also paid to those who were killed in the Tsunami in the South East Asian Region.

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Gujarat Legislative Assembly which commenced its Seventh Session on 17 February 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 17 March 2005. The House was prorogued by the Governor on the same day. There were 27 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor of Gujarat Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma addressed the House on 17 February 2005. The same day Shri Shankarbhai Chaudhary moved the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address which was seconded by Shri Prabodhkant Pandya. The Motion was discussed in

* Material contributed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

three sittings. At the end of the discussion, the Motion was passed on 23 February 2005.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 25 Government Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Gujarat Obsequial Dinners (Control) (Repeal) Bill, 2005; (ii) The Bombay Weights and measures (Enforcement) (Gujarat Repeal) Bill, 2005; (iii) The Gujarat Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iv) The Bombay Labour Welfare Fund (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005; (v) The Indian Stamp (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vi) The Bombay Non-Trading Corporations (Gujarat Repeal) Bill, 2005; (vii) The Bombay Prohibition (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005; (viii) The Bombay Rationing (Preparatory and Continuance) Measures (Gujarat Repeal) Bill, 2005; (ix) The Gujarat Essential Commodities and Cattle (Control) Bill, 2005; (x) The Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University Bill, 2005; (xi) The Gujarat Fiscal Responsibility Bill, 2005; (xii) The Dhrangadhra Municipality(Imposition of Taxes) (Validation) (Repeal) Bill, 2005; (xiii) The Dharmsinh Desai University Bill, 2005; (xiv) The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2005; (xv) The Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xvi) The Bombay Industrial Relations (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xvii) The Gujarat Maritime Board (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2005; (xviii) The Ganpat University Bill, 2005; (xix) The Gujarat Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xx) The Gujarat Repealing Bill, 2005; (xxi) The Shree Somnath Sanskrit University Bill, 2005; (xxii) The Gujarat Civil Courts Bill, 2005; (xxiii) The Bombay Electricity Duty (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xxiv) The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2005; (xxv) The Gujarat Salaries and Allowances of Members, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Ministers and Leader of the Opposition Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: The Statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 2004-2005 was presented to the House on 18 February 2005. As many as ten Demands were discussed on 24 February 2005 and passed by the House on the same day. The remaining 55 demands were guillotined. The Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2004 was passed by the House on 2 March 2005.

On 18 February 2005, the Finance Minister Shri Vajubhai Vala presented the Budget for the year 2005-2006 to the House. Out of the 104 demands for grants, 50 demands were discussed and passed in 12 sittings. The remaining 54 demands were guillotined. The Appropriation Bill, 2005 was passed by the House on 16 March 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were

made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India. The House was adjourned for the day as a mark of respect to him. Thirteen other obituary references were made in the House.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly which commenced its Seventh Session on 21 February 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 8 April 2005. There were 26 sittings in all. The Governor prorogued the House on 8 April 2005.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh Justice (Retd.) V.S. Kokje, addressed the House on 21 February 2005. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address that commenced on 25 February lasted for five days and the Motion was passed on 2 March 2005.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 13 Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 1 of 2005); (ii) The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualifications) Amendment Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 2 of 2005); (iii) The Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 3 of 2005); (iv) The Himachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 4 of 2005); (v) The Himachal Pradesh Bus Stands Management and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 5 of 2005); (vi) The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 6 of 2005); (vii) The Himachal Pradesh Sports (Registration, Recognition And Regulation of Associations) Bill No. 2005 (Bill No.8 of 2005); (viii) The Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 9 of 2005); (ix) The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 10 of 2005); (x) The Himachal Pradesh Agricultural and Horticultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 11 of 2005); (xi) The Himachal Pradesh Tax On Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 12 of 2005); (xii) The Himachal Pradesh Local Area Development Tax Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 13 of 2005); (xiii) The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill, 2005 (Bill No. 14 of 2005).

Financial business: The Chief Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh, who is

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

also in-charge of the Department of Finance, presented the Budget Estimates for the year 2005-2006 to the House on 11 March 2005. The General Discussion on the Budget was held for five days in which 46 members participated. The Chief Minister replied to the debate on 18 March 2005.

The voting on Demands for Grants was held for three days. The Appropriation Bill was introduced, considered and passed on 30 March 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Siriram, former member of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Tributes were also paid to those who were killed in Tsunami disaster.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL*

The Karnataka Legislative Council, which commenced its Hundred and Second Session on 20 January 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 5 February 2005. There were eleven sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka addressed both the Houses of Karnataka Legislature on 20 January 2005. On 27 January 2005, Prof. B.K. Chandrashekar moved the motion of thanks to the Governor for his address, which was seconded by Shri H.S. Shivashankar. The motion was adopted on 5 February 2005.

Legislative business: During the Session three Bills of Legislative Council and six Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; 'Bharat Ratna' Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi, Indian Classical Vocalist; Dr. Raja Ramanna, former Rajya Sabha member and Nuclear Scientist; Shri Nittur Srinivasa Rao, retired High Court Chief Justice; Dr. H. Narasimhaiah, eminent educationalist, veteran Gandhian and former member of the Legislative Council; Sarvashri Sagaranahalli Revanna, D.A. Chinnappa, R.D. Kittur, all former Ministers of the Karnataka Government; Shri Kollur Mallappa, veteran freedom fighter; Dr. Shankara Mokashi Punekar, Kendriya Sahitya Academy Award winner.

The Karnataka Legislative Council** which commenced its Hundred

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* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Council Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Council Secretariat

and Second Session (Adjourned Meetings) on 11 March 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 1 April 2005. There were fifteen sittings in all.

During the Session, election for the office of the Chairman of the Legislative Council was held on 17 March 2005 and for the office of the Deputy Chairman on 31 March 2005. Shri V.R. Sudarshan and Sri Khoth Sachhidanand were elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively.

Legislative business: During the Session two Bills of the Legislative Council and 7 Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were passed.

Financial business: On 11 March 2005, the Budget estimates for the year 2005-2006 were presented to the House Discussion on the Budget estimates was held for eleven days in which 18 members participated. The Deputy Chief Minister replied to the debate.

The Appropriation Accounts and the Financial Accounts for the year 2003-2004 ending on 31 March 2004 and the Supplementary Estimates (Final Instalment) for the year 2004-2005 were submitted to the House.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Karamballi Sanjeeva Shetty, former member of the Legislative Council; Govind Rao Lakshman Rao Astekar, K.M. Rudrappa, Gudunashaha Khanashah Takkeda; all former members of Legislative Assembly; Shri I.N.A. Rama Rao, veteran freedom fighter and the Organising Secretary of Bharat Seva Dal; Shri Nadiger Govinda Rao, writer, humorist and freedom fighter; Smt N. Mangala Gowramma, freedom fighter; and the famous dancer Prof. Ubhayakar Shivaram Krishna Rao.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Karnataka Legislative Assembly which commenced its Second Session on 20 January 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 5 February 2005. There were eleven sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka addressed the Joint Session of both the Houses on 20 January 2005. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was held for four days in which 42 members participated. The House adopted the Motion on 5 February 2005 after the reply given by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, eight Bills including the Appropriation Bill were passed by the House.

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* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Bharat Ratna Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi; Shri Nittur Srinivasa Rao, former acting Governor of Karnataka; Dr. Raja Ramanna, former Rajya Sabha member and renowned atomic scientist; Shri Kollur Mallappa, former member of Rajya Sabha; Sarvashri D.A. Chinnappa, Sagaranahalli Revanna, R.D. Kittur, all former Ministers; Dr. H. Narasimhaiah, former member of Legislative Council and educationist; Sarvashri J.S. Ammannavar, S.R. Lakshmaiah, A.S. Desai, A.D. Biligowda, Gangabhovi, K. Narayanappa, all former members of Legislative Assembly; Smt. Annapoornamma, former member of Mysore Representative Assembly; Shri Shankara Mokashi Punekar, literateur; and Shri C. Nagaraj, former Secretary Karnataka State Cricket Association. Tributes were also paid to those who lost their lives in the Tsunami tragedy.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Kerala Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Eleventh Session on 27 January 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 30 March 2005. The Governor prorogued the House on the same day. There were 30 sittings in all. This was for the first time since 1975 that the full Budget was passed before the commencement of the financial year without going for a Vote-on-Account.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Kerala Shri R.L. Bhatia addressed the House on 27 January 2005. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was held for three days. Sixteen members moved amendments to the Motion of Thanks. The House rejected the amendments and adopted the Motion on 2 February 2005, after the reply given by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 22 Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Kerala Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005; (ii) The Kerala Stay of Eviction Proceedings Bill, 2005; (iii) The Kerala Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iv) The Kerala Municipality (Third Amendment) Bill, 2005; (v) The Kerala Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vi) The Kerala Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vii) The Kerala Municipality (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005; (viii) The Kerala Finance Bill, 2005; (ix) The Kerala Tourism (Conservation and Preservation of Areas) Bill, 2005; (x) The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xi) The University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xii) The Kerala Gaming (Amendment) Bill,

* Material contributed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly Secretariat

2005; (xiii) The Kerala Tax on Lotteries Bill, 2005. All the other 9 Bills were Appropriation Bills.

Financial business: The Minister for Finance and Excise laid on the Table the final Supplementary Financial Statement for the year 2004-2005and the Statements of Excess Grants for the financial years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and presented the Budget for the year 2005-2006 on 4 February 2005. The General Discussion on the Budget was held for three days and the Demands for Grants were then referred to the respective Subject Committees for scrutiny.

The Assembly devoted 13 days for the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2005-2006. 36 Demands were discussed in the House and 8 Demands were guillotined. The Appropriation Bill in respect of the Budget was passed on 30 March 2005. The Supplementary Demands and Excess Demands were passed by the House on 1 March 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Shri V.V. Raghavan, former Minister and member of the Rajya Sabha; Shri Krishnan Kaniyamparambil, former Mnister; Sarvashri V. Kesavan, C. Kunhikrishnan Nair, C.P. Kunhalikutty Keyi, A.K. Appu, A. Kanaran, all former members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly; Shri V.R. Krishnan Ezhuthachan, former member of the Cochin and Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assemblies; and Shri O.V. Vijayan, renowned Malayalam writer.

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly which commenced its Fifth Session on 7 February 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 16 March 2005. The House was prorogued by the Governor on 22 March 2005. There were 21 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar addressed the House on 7 February 2005. Shri Himmat Kothari moved the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address, which was seconded by Dr. Narottam Mishra. The discussion was held for three days. The Motion was adopted on 14 February 2005 after the reply given by the Chief Minister.

* Material contributed by the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Legislative business: During the Session Six Bills were introduced and passed by the House.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance Shri Raghav Ji presented the Budget Estimates for the year 2005-2006 on 18 February 2005. The general discussion on Budget was held on 21 and 22 February 2005. It was followed by discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants for individual departments from 28 February 2005 to 11 March 2005. After the voting on Demands for Grants was concluded, the Appropriation Bill (No. 2), 2005 was introduced and discussed in the House which was passed on 14 March 2005.

The Finance Minister presented the Second Supplementary Demands for the year 2004-2005 in the House on 4 March 2005, which were passed on 9 March 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Shri J.N. Dixit, National Security Advisor; Dr. Vidya Niwas Mishra, Veteran literary personality and Rajya Sabha Member; Shri Vinod Chandra Pandey, former Governor of Bihar; Sarvashri Devilal Raikwal, Mahendra Kumar Manav, Vijay Singh, Premlal Mishra, Hasnat Siddiqui, Kishorilal Hans, Banshidhar Parashar, all former members of the State Legislature.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL*

The Maharashtra Legislative Council which commenced its first Session of the year 2005 on 14 March 2005 was prorogued by the Governor on 16 April 2005. There were 24 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra addressed the Joint Sitting of both the Houses. Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was adopted by the House without any amendment.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) Industrial Disputes (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2003; (ii) The Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Bill, 2003; (iii) The Bombay Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (iv) The Nagpur City Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (v) The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vi) The Maharashtra Slums (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vii) The Bombay Village Panchayat

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Council Secretariat

and Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samities (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (viii) The Maharashtra Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (ix) The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (x) The Maharshtra State Council For Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

The following Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Tenancy and Agricultural Land Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (ii) The Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (iii) The Maharashtra Management of Irrigation system by the Farmers Bill, 2004; (iv) The Bombay Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (v) Payment of Wages (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2004; (vi) Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Bill, 2005; (vii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (viii) The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility & Budgetary Management (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (ix) Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2005; (x) Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xi) The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xii) Nagpur Improvement Trust, Maharashtra Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Boards, Maharashtra Public Libraries, Mahatma Phule Vastu Sangrahalaya, Poona, Maharashtra Agricultural Universities, Maharashtra Universities and Maharashtra Universities of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: Minister of State for Finance presented the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 2004-2005 in the House on 15 March 2005. General Discussion on the Supplementary Demands for the year 2004-2005 was held on 22 and 27 March 2005.

The Minister of State for Finance presented the Budget for the year 2005-2006 on 21 March 2005. General Discussion on the Budget was held on 28, 29 and 30 March 2005.

Obituary reference: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Sarvashri Shaligram Rajaram Basaiye, Motiram Udebhanji, Lahane-Patil, Murlidhar Gangaram Pawar, all former members. Tributes were also paid to those who were killed in the Tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004.

MAHARSHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced its First Session

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Secretariat

of the year 2005 on 14 March 2005. The House was prorogued by the Governor on 16 April 2005. There were 24 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra addressed members of both the Houses on 14 March 2005. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was adopted by the House without any amendment.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 23 Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) L.A. Bill No. XLIII of 2004–The Maharashtra Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (ii) L.A. Bill No. XLVI of 2004–The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (iii) L.A. Bill No. LIV of 2004–The Maharashtra Management of Irrigation Systems by Farmers Bill, 2004; (iv) L.A. Bill No. LXIV of 2004–The Bombay Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (v) L.A. Bill No. LXV of 2004–The Payment of Wages (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2004; (vi) L.A. Bill No. XXVII of 2005–The Maharashtra Essentail Services Maintenance Bill, 2005; (vii) L.A. Bill No. XXVIII of 2005 - The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (viii) L.A. Bill No. XXIX of 2005 - The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (ix) L.A. Bill No. XXXI of 2005 - The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2005; (x) L.A. Bill No. XXXVIII of 2005 - The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management Bill, 2005; (xi) L.A. Bill No. XXXIX of 2005 - The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005; (xii) L.A. Bill No. XLII of 2005 - The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2005; (xiii) L.A. Bill No. XLIII of 2005 - The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xiv) L.A. Bill No. XLIX of 2005 - The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2005; (xv) L.A. Bill No. L of 2005 - The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xvi) L.A. Bill No. LII of 2005 - The Nagpur Improvement Trust, the Maharashtra Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Boards, the Maharashtra Public Libraries, the Mahatma Phule Vastu Sangrahalaya, Poona, the Maharashtra Agricultural Universities (Krishi Vidyapeeths), the Maharashtra Universities and the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xvii) L.C. Bill No. XIX of 2003 - The Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Bill, 2003; (xviii) L.C. Bill No. III of 2004 - The Bombay Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (xix) L.C. Bill No. XXVII of 2004 - The Maharashtra Irrigation (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (xx) L.C. Bill No. XXIX of 2004 - The City of Nagpur Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (xxi) L.C. Bill No. I of 2005 - The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xxii) L. C. Bill No. V of 2005 - The Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) (Amendment) Bill, 2005;

(xxiii) L.C. Bill No. VI of 2005 - The Bombay Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayats Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 2004-2005 on 15 March 2005. Discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands were held on 22 and 23 March 2005.

The Minister of Finance presented the Budget for the year 2005-2006 on 21 March 2005. The general discussion on Budget was held on 28, 29 and 30 March 2005. The discussion and voting on Budgetary demands for grants were held on 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 12 April 2005. In all, 172 Demands for Grants of the Budget were passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Sarvashri Bajirao Dasharath Kamble, Vitthalrao Champatrao Naik - Mhaske, Shantaram Sitaram Chavan, Hari Shankar Mahale, Ridwan Burhansaheb Harris, Motiram Udebhanji Lahane - Patil, Dattatray Malhar Bidkar, Nivrutti Ramji Bhorkade and Piraji Satwaki Sabne, all former members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Tributes were also paid to the victims of the Tsunami Tragedy.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eighth Manipur Legislative Assembly which commenced its Tenth Session on 15 March 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 21 March 2005. There were five sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Manipur Dr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu addressed members of the Assembly on 15 March 2005. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved on 15 March 2005 by Shri C. Doungel and seconded by Shri Th. Tomba Singh.

Legislative business: During the Session the following two Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2005; and (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: The Chief Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2004-2005 and Budget Estimates, 2005-2006 on 16 March 2005. On the same day the Chief Minister moved a motion

* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat

for Vote on Account for the months from April to July 2005. General Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2004-2005 and Voting on Demands and Motion for Vote on Accounts, 2005 were held on 18 March 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session Obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; and Shri T. Gunadhwaja Singh, former member of the State Legislative Assembly. Tributes were also paid to those who lost their lives in the Tsunami disaster on 26 December, 2004.

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Seventh Meghalaya Legislative Assembly which commenced its Eighth Session on 11 March 2005 was prorogued by the Governor on 19 April 2005. There were twenty-one sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Meghalaya Shri M.M. Jacob addressed the members of the House. On 11 March 2005 a Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was moved and discussed on 14,15, and 16 March 2005. After the reply given by the Chief Minister the Motion was adopted by the House on 16 March 2005.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Eleven Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Meghalaya Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provision) Bill, 2005; (ii) The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2005; (iii) The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2005; (iv) The Meghalaya Appropriation (Vote - On - Account) Bill, 2005; (v) The Meghalaya State Commission for Women Commission Bill, 2005; (vi) The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (vii) The William Carey University Bill, 2005; (viii) The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University Bill, 2005; (ix) The Meghalaya State Language Bill, 2004; (x) The Contingency Fund of Meghalaya (Amendment) Bill, 2004; (xi) The Martin Luther Christian University Bill, 2005.

Financial business: The Deputy Chief Minister, who is also in-charge of the Finance Department, presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriations for 2004-2005 and (i) Appropriation Accounts 2003-2004 (ii) Finance Accounts 2003-2004, on 14 March 2005. He also presented the Budget Estimates for the year 2005-2006 on 24 March 2005. On the same day, the Vote-on-Account Budget for

* Material contributed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

the financial year 2005-2006 was presented to the House. The General Discussion on the Budget was held in four sittings at the end of which reply was given by the Deputy Chief Minister. The House voted the Supplementary Demands for Grants on 13, 15 and 18 April 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Vinod Chandra Pande, former Arunachal Pradesh Governor; and Nripen Chakravorty, former Chief Minister of Tripura. Tributes were also paid to those who lost their lives in the Tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Nagaland Legislative Assembly which commenced its Seventh Session on 15 March 2005, was adjourned *sine die* on 24 March 2005 and prorogued by the Governor the same day. There were seven sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: On the opening day, the Governor of Nagaland Shri Shymal Datta addressed the members of the House. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was held for two days. Shri Y. Yitachu initiated the discussion on the motion while Shri Tarie seconded it. The Chief Minister replied to the debate.

Legislative business: During the Session the following Bills were considered and passed by the House; (i) The Nagaland Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005; (ii) The Nagaland Municipal (First Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance Shri Kewekhape Therie presented the Demands for Grants for regularisation of excess expenditure for the year 1995-96. He also presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2004-2005.

The Minister of Finance introduced the following Bills which were considered and passed by voice vote: (i) The Nagaland Value Added Tax Bill, 2005; (ii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2005; (iii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005; and (iv) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2005.

The Minister of Finance presented the Budget for the year 2005-2006. General Discussion on the Budget was initiated by Shri I. Imkong,

* Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Leader of the Opposition. The Minister of Finance replied to the General Discussion and the Voting on Demands for Grants for the year 2005-2006 was taken up without discussion.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; and Shri Tochi Hanso, former Minister.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Thirteenth Orissa Assembly which commenced its Fourth Session on 28 February 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 6 April 2005. The Governor prorogued the House on 20 April 2005. There were twenty-five sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the Budget Session, the Governor of Orissa addressed the House on 28 February 2005. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved on 1 March 2005. The discussion was held for two days and concluded after the reply by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session four official Bills, including the Orissa Appropriation Bill, 2005 were passed.

Financial business: The Annual Budget Estimates for the year 2005-2006 were presented to the House on 4 March 2005. The General Discussion on the Annual Budget was held for two days. The Demands for Grants pertaining to 16 Departments were discussed on thirteen sitting days and voted in full, rest of the Demands were guillotined. The rule necessitating Demand Discussion for minimum fourteen days was suspended for the Session by a unanimous motion.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Sankarshan Naik, sitting member, and Shri Sribatcha Nayak, former member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Ninth Tripura Legislative Assembly which commenced its Eighth Session on 16 March 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 24 March 2005. The Governor of Tripura prorogued the House on 20 April 2005. There were seven sittings in all.

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* Material contributed by the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat.
** Material contributed by the Tripura Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Tripura Shri Dinesh Nandan Sahay addressed the House on 16 March 2005. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address commenced on 21 March 2005. The motion was moved by Shri Keshab Majumder, Minister in-charge of the Parliamentary Affairs Department and seconded by Shri Samir Deb Sarkar, member. The discussion was held for two days. The Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Legislative business: During the Session, The Tripura Value Added Tax Bill, 2004 (Tripura Bill No. 20 of 2004), was introduced, considered and passed by the House.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance, Shri Badal Chowdhury presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2004-2005 on 16 March 2005. The Minister of Finance also presented the Vote on Account for a part of the financial year 2005-2006, on the same day. The General Discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants was held on 23 March 2005. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants were held on 24 March 2005. All the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2004-2005 were passed by the House.

The Minister of Finance moved the motion for a Vote on Account for a part of the financial year 2005-2006 on 24 March 2005. The Motion for Vote on Accounts was passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Shri Nripen Chakraborty, former Chief Minister of Tripura; and Shri Ajit Ranjan Ghosh, former member of the Tripura Legislative Assembly. The House also paid tributes to those who died in the Tsunami in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka and Indonesia on 26 December 2004.

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourteenth Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its first Session on 11 February 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 23 March 2005. The House was prorogued by the Governor on 12 April 2005. There were 22 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Uttar Pradesh addressed the members of both the Houses on 11 February 2005. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was held for

* Material contributed by the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

four days. The Motion was adopted by voice vote after the reply given by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 17 Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Uttar Pradesh Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (ii) The Uttar Pradesh State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iii) The Uttar Pradesh Sales of Motor Spirit, Diesel, Oil And Alcohol Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (iv) The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Second Supplementary 2004-2005) Bill, 2005; (v) The Amity University Uttar Pradesh Bill, 2005; (vi) The Uttar Pradesh State Law Commission Bill, 2005; (vii) The Uttar Pradesh Muslim Waqfs (Repeal) Bill, 2005; (viii) The Uttar Pradesh Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Bill, 2005; (ix) The Uttar Pradesh Senior Officers' Residence Bill, 2005; (x) The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2005; (xi) The Uttar Pradesh Sports (Registration, Recognition and Regulation of Associations) Bill, 2005; (xii) The Uttar Pradesh Trade Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xiii) The Uttar Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xiv) The Uttar Pradesh Urban Local Self Government Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xv) The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2005; (xvi) The Mohammad Ali Jauhar University Bill, 2005; (xvii) The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Residences of the Officers and Leaders of Opposition) Bill, 2005.

Financial business: This being the Budget Session, the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2005-2006 was presented in the House on 23 February 2005. Before the Annual Financial Statement the Second Supplementary Grants for the year 2004-2005 were also presented in the House on 16 February 2005. All the demands for the Second Supplementary Grants were passed by the voice vote. The Bill relating to the Second Supplementary Grants was also introduced, considered and passed the same day. As regards various Demands for Grants for the year 2005-06, three days were fixed for general discussion and five days for discussion and voting for all the grants of different departments. The Appropriation Bill for the year 2005-2006 was introduced on 14 March 2005 and after consideration it was passed by the voice vote the same day.

Obituary References: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister of India; Sarvashri Abdul Kalam, Raju Pal and Ramesh Kant Lavania, all sitting members; and 21 former members of the Assembly. The House paid tribute to those who died in the Tsunami disaster and also who died in the stampede in Kalubai Temple, District Satara in Maharashtra on 25 January 2005.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Thirteenth West Bengal Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Tenth Session on 10 March 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 31 March 2005. There were fourteen sittings in all and the Governor prorogued the House on 1 April 2005.

Address by the Governor: This being the first session of the year, the Governor of West Bengal Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi addressed the House on 10 March 2005. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved on the same day and the discussion on the Motion was held for four days from 15 to 18 March 2005. The Motion was adopted by the House on 18 March 2005.

Legislative business: During the Session 11 Bills were considered and passed by the House.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance, Dr. Asim Kumar Dasgupta, presented the Budget for the year 2005-2006 on 21 March 2005. The General Discussion on the Budget was initiated on 23 March 2005 and continued for two days on 28 and 29 March 2005. The Minister of Finance replied to the debate on the last day. Thereafter, the Motion for Vote on Account was moved and passed on the same day.

The Supplementary Estimates for the year 2004-2005 were presented to the House on 23 March 2005. The Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2004-2005 were moved on 30 March 2005 and voted by the House on the same day after discussion.

The House passed the West Bengal Appropriation Bill, 2005 and the West Bengal Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005, on 31 March 2005.

Obituary references: During the Session obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Jhao Ziyang, former Prime Minister of China; Smt. Kanak Mukhopadhyay, former Member of Parliament; Sarvashri Gunadhar Maity, Indrajit Majumdar and Smt. Biva Mitra, all former members of the Legislative Assembly; and other renowned persons.

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* Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	25 February to 13 May 2005
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	38
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	212 hours, 33 minutes
4.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	11
	(ii) Introduced	26
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha	8
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/recommendation and laid on the Table	1
	(v) Reported by Standing Committee	9
	(vi) Referred to Departmentally-related Standing Committee by Speaker/ Chairman, Rajya Sabha	5
	(vii) Discussed	26
	(viii) Passed	26
	(ix) Pending at the end of the Session	19
5.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	65
	(ii) Introduced	42
	(iii) Discussed	3
	(iv) Negatived	2
	(v) Part-discussed	1
	(vii) Pending at the end of the Session	105
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	204
	(ii) Admitted	103
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	365
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	348
9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	422
	(ii) Admitted	5
	(iii) Discussions held	4

	(iv) Part-discussed	1
10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling Attention of Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	13
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	58
12.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	60
	(ii) Admitted	6
	(iii) Moved	5
	(iv) Adopted	3
	(v) Negatived	2
13.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	4
	(ii) Admitted	4
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	1
14.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Received	12
	(ii) Admitted	12
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Negatived	1
	(v) Part-discussed	1
15.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Total number of Notices received	8
	(ii) Brought before the House	1
	(iii) Admitted	Nil
	(iv) Consent withheld by Speaker, Lok Sabha outside the House	7
16.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	20,720
17.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	870 on 11.3.2005
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	700
	(ii) Starred Questions replied orally	116
	(iii) Un-starred	7337
	(iv) Half-an-Hour discussions	2
19.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	3
20.	NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATE	2 Members sworn on 28.2.2005 1 Member sworn on 21.3.2005

21. PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED 1

22. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

(i)	Notices received	21
(ii)	Brought before the House	3
(iii)	Observations made by Speaker	3

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	4
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	1	2
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	2	—
iv)	Committee on Estimates	—	—
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	3	1
vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	2	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	—	—
xi)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	8	2 (Original) 1 (Action Taken)
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	4	1
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	3	4
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xvii)	House Committee	—	—
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
	b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	2	—
xx)	Rules Committee	—	—
	JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—

DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

i)	Committee on Agriculture	6	4
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	3	1
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	6	2
iv)	Committee on Defence	16	—
v)	Committee on Energy	5	2 (Action Taken)
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	4	—
vii)	Committee on Finance	10	5
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	10	4 (Action Taken)
x)	Committee on Labour	1	2
xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	4	1
xii)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	6	4
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	7	3
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	—	—
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	2	—

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2005 OF RAJYA SABHA

1. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 January to 31 March 2005	No of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	7	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	3	3
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	1	1
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	Nil	Nil
(v)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	4	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	1
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	3	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	3	5
(xi)	Home Affairs	12	3
(xii)	Human Resource Development	10	10
(xiii)	Industry	13	Nil
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	6	7
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	11	5
(xvi)	Health & Family Welfare	5	6
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	19	5
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	1	1
(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	1	Nil
(xx)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	3	Nil

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2005

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions

Karnataka L.C.	20.1.2005 to 5.2.2005 and 11.3.2005 to 1.4.2005	26	5(19)	1(1)	_(330)	_(1,798)	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	7.2.2005 to 16.3.2005	21	6(6)	1	3,553(2,406)	1,795(2,320)@	—
Maharashtra L.A.	14.3.2005 to 16.4.2005	24	13(23)	32	9,248(1,088)	13(1,473)@	31(6)
Maharashtra L.C.	14.3.2005 to 16.4.2005	24	10(26)	7	3,888(1,342)	4(465)@	—
Manipur L.A	15.3.2005 to 21.3.2005	5	3(2)	1(2)	48(51)	2(2)	1(1)
Meghalaya L.A.	11.3.2005 to 19.4.2005	21	6(8)	3(3)	487(466)	283(215)	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	15.3.2004 to 24.3.2005	7	6(6)	—	95(95)	34(33)	—
Orissa L.A.	28.2.2005 to 6.4.2005	25	6(5)	2	3,940(2,990)	3,962(5,579)@	85(6)
Punjab L.A.	18.3.2005 to 19.4.2005	14	12(12)	—	576(297)	76(58)	4
Rajasthan L.A.	3.1.2005 to 21.4.2005	25	17(17)	—	1,267(1,075)	2,155(1,977)	1
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	16.3.2005 to 24.3.2005	7	3(3)	—	485(346)	728(662)	7(5)
Uttaranchal L.A.	10.1.2005 to 20.1.2005 and 21.3.2005 to 12.4.2005	12	19(19)	—	615(94)	324	166(14)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.	23.3.2005 to 25.4.2005	6	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2005

9	Business Advisory Committee	
10	Committee on Govt. Assurances	
11	Committee on Petitions	
12	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	
13	Committee of Privileges	
14	Committee on Public Undertakings	
15	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	
16	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	
17	Committee on Estimates	
18	General Purposes Committee	
19	House/Accommodation Committee	
20	Library Committee	
21	Public Accounts Committee	
22	Rules Committee	
23	Joint/Select Committee	
24	Other Committees	

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	5	2	2(1)	—	—	3	1	1(1)	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	3(1)[a]
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.	2(2)	—	—	2(2)	—	2(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1(1)	—	—
Goa L.A.	1(1)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(1)	—
Gujarat L.A.	5(3)	6(3)	—	3(3)	—	7(5)	2	9(2)	3(2)	—	2(1)	—	10(5)	—	—	9(3)[b]
Haryana L.A.	1(1)	7	—	—	8	2	4	8	10(1)	—	5	9	9	6	—	1[c]
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	4	6(6)	4(2)	9(7)	7(2)	—	—	—	7(15)	—	—	23(33)[d]
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	4(4)	—	2(1)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—	1(1)	—	—	2[e]
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.	1(1)	1	—	—	1	–(1)	—	—	–(1)	—	—	—	–(1)	1(1)	—	5(1)[f]
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	4	4	5	7(3)	5(1)	5	4	5(1)	5	—	5	7	6(1)	—	—	14(2)[g]
Karnataka L.C.	4	5	4(2)	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	4(4)	2(1)	4(1)	2(1)	1(1)	3(9)	4(1)	1	6	—	2	1	7(40)	—	—	8(8)[h]
Maharashtra L.A.	3(2)	—	—	2(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1[i]
Maharashtra L.C.	3(2)	4	2	3(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1[j]
Manipur L.A.	1(1)	4	2	—	—	2	—	2(2)	2(1)	—	6	—	—	2	—	3[k]
Meghalaya L.A.	2	—	3	—	—	7	1	2	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	3	5(2)	15(2)	—	—	1(3)	8(1)	6(1)	8(1)	—	1	2	11(10)	3(1)	—	39(5)[l]
Punjab L.A.	3(3)	13(1)	8	—	10	13(4)	10(1)	10(1)	11(3)	—	5	5	13(6)	2(1)	—	13[m]
Rajasthan L.A.	4(4)	—	7(1)	—	2	4(9)	8(1)	14(2)	19(7)	—	7	5	6(19)	8	—	22(3)[n]
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	1(1)	—	2	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Uttaranchal L.A.	8	4(2)	4	—	—	6	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY																
Pondicherry L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	23	—	—	—

* Information received from State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

(a) Employment Review Committee-2(1); and Ethics Committee-1

(b) Panchayati Raj Committee-4(1); Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-1; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3(1); and Committee on Absence of Members-1(1)

(c) Press Gallery Committee-1

(d) Public Administration Committee-7(8); Human Development Committee-5(5); General Development Committee-5(12); and Rural Planning Committee-6(8)

(e) Environment Committee-2

(f) Committee on Ethics-5(1)

(g) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-5(1); Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-6; and Committee on the Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities-3(1)

(h) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-3(5); Committee on Questions and References-2(1); and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3(2)

(i)&(j) Catering Committee-1

(k) Committee on Welfare of Woman and Children-1; and Hill Areas Committee-2

(l) Committee on Ethics-7(1); Committee on Papers laid on the Table-7(1); House Committee on Woman and Child Welfare-4(1); House Committee on Cooperatives-6(1); House Committee on Panchayati Raj-1(1); House Committee on Forests-4; House Committee on Environment-1; House Committee on Sarva Siksha Abhiyan-4; House Committee on Linguistic Minorities-1; House Committee on Cyclone and Floods-2; and House Committee on Orissa Power Generation-2

(m) Committee on Papers laid on the Table-7; and Committee on Questions and References-6

(n) Committee on the Welfare of Women and Children-5(2); Question and Reference Committee-9(1); and Committee on Welfare of Backward

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2005

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent
1	2	3
1.	The Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2004	6.1.2005
2.	The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2004	6.1.2005
3.	The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2004	11.1.2005
4.	The Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2004	11.1.2005
5.	The Central Excise Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2004	22.2.2005
6.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2005	23.3.2005
7.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2005	23.3.2005
8.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005	23.3.2005
9.	The Appropriation Bill, 2005	23.3.2005
10.	The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005	24.3.2005
11.	The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2005	24.3.2005
12.	The Bihar Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005	24.3.2005
13.	The Bihar Appropriation Bill, 2005	24.3.2005
14.	The Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Repeal Bill, 2005	31.3.2005

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2005

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Arunachal Pradesh Goods Tax Bill, 2005
2. The Assam Frontier (Administration of Justice) Regulation Act, 1945 (Amendment) Bill, 2005
3. The Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women (Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
5. The Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
6. The Arunachal University (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2005

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
2. The Assam Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
3. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Assam Taxation Bill, 2005
5. The Assam Taxation (on Specified Land) Bill, 2005
6. The Assam Fish Seed Bill, 2005
7. The Assam Administrative Tribunal Bill, 2005
8. The Assam Women (Reservation and Vacancy) Bill, 2005
9. The Assam Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
10. The Assam Profession, Trade Ceiling and Employment Taxation Bill, 2005
11. The Assam Assessment & Billing Tax Bill, 2005
12. The Assam Tax (on Land) Bill, 2005
13. The Assam Agriculture Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
14. The Assam Entry Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
15. The Assam Urban Water Supply & Sewerage Board Bill, 2005
16 The Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation Bill, 2005
17. The Deori Autonomous Council Bill, 2005
18. The Sonowal Kachri Autonomous Council Bill, 2005
19. The Tiwa Autonomous Council Bill, 2005
20. The Mising Autonomous Council Bill, 2005
21. The Rabha Husang Autonomous Council Bill, 2005
22. The Assam Tribal Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2005
23. The Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2005

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Indian Stamps (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2005
2. The Delhi Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
3. The Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
4. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2005
2. The Goa Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
3. The Goa Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2005

4. The Indian Stamp (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2005*
5. The Goa Reconstruction of Registrars and Records Bill, 2005
6. The Goa Members of Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) (Amendment) Bill, 2005*
7. The Goa Public Health Bill, 2005
8. The City of Panaji Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2005
9. The Goa State Guarantees (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005
10. The Goa Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
11. The Goa Value Added Tax Bill, 2005

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Gujarat Obsequial Dinners (Control) (Repeal) Bill, 2005
2. The Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) (Gujarat Repeal) Bill, 2005
3. The Gujarat Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Bombay Labour Welfare Fund (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005
5. The Indian Stamp (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005
6. The Bombay Non-Trading Corporations (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005
7. The Bombay Prohibition (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005
8. The Bombay Rationing (Preparatory and Continuance) Measures (Gujarat Repeal) Bill, 2005
9. The Gujarat Essential Commodities and Cattle (Control) Bill, 2005
10. The Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University Bill, 2005
11. The Gujarat Fiscal Responsibility Bill, 2005
12. The Dhrangadhra Municipality (Imposition of Taxes) (Validation) (Repeal) Bill, 2005
13. The Dharmsinh Desai University Bill, 2005
14. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2005
15. The Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005
16. The Bombay Industrial Relations (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005
17. The Gujarat Maritime Board (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2005
18. The Ganpat University Bill, 2005
19. The Gujarat Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
20. The Gujarat Repealing Bill, 2005
21. The Shree Somnath Sanskrit University Bill, 2005
22. The Gujarat Civil Courts Bill, 2005
23. The Bombay Electricity Duty (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2005
24. The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2005
25. The Gujarat Salaries and Allowances of Members, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Minister and Leader of the Opposition Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005

HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Haryana Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
2. The Haryana Appropriation, Vote on Account (No.2) Bill, 2005
3. The Haryana Staff Selection Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2005

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2005
2. The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2005
3. The Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Himachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management Bill, 2005
5. The Himachal Pradesh Bus Stand Management and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2005

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* Bills awaiting Assent

6. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
7. The Himachal Pradesh Sports (Registration, Recognition and Regulation of Association) Bill, 2005
8. The Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax Bill, 2005
9. The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2005
10. The Himachal Pradesh Agriculture and Horticulture Produce Marketing (Amendment and Regulations) Bill, 2005
11. The Himachal Pradesh Tax on Professions, Trades, Ceiling and Employment's Bill, 2005
12. The Himachal Pradesh Local Area Development Tax Bill, 2005
13. The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill, 2005

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Value Added Tax Bill, 2005
2. The Jammu and Kashmir Specified Wakfs and Specified Wakf Properties (Management and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
3. The Jammu and Kashmir Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Jammu and Kashmir General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
5. The Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2005
6. The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
7. The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
8. The Salaries and Allowances of the members of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature (Amendment) Bill, 2005
9. The Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2005
10. The Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005
11. The Jammu and Kashmir Baba Ghulam Shah Bud-shah, University (Amendment) Bill, 2005
12. The Jammu and Kashmir Profession's Trades, Callings and Employment Tax Bill, 2004
13. The Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005
14. The Jammu and Kashmir Self-reliant Co-operatives (Amendment) Bill, 2005
15. The Jammu and Kashmir Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
16. The Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2004
17. The Jammu and Kashmir School Education (Amendment) Bill, 2003

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2004
2. The Bangalore Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2005
3. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005
5. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
6. The Karnataka Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2005
7. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005
8. The Karnataka Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2005

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Karnataka Electricity Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2005
2. The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2005
3. The Basavakalyana Development Board Bill, 2005
4. The Karnataka State Health Insurance Plan Bill, 2005
5. The Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2005
6. The Electricity (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2005
7. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2005
8. The Karnataka Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005

9. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2005
10. The Karnataka Municipalities and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2005
11. The Karnataka Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
12. The Karnataka Souharda Sahakari (Amendment) Bill, 2005
13. The Karnataka Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2004
14. The Bangalore Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2005
15. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
16. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005
17. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
18. The Karnataka Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2005
19. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005
20. The Karnataka Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2005

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Raj Evam Gram Swaraj (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2005
2. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2005
3. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No.2) Vidheyak, 2005
4. The Madhya Pradesh Kasht Chiran (Viniyaman) Sansodhan Vidheyak, 2005
5. The Madhya Pradesh Gramin Avsanrachna Evam Sadak Vikas Vidheyak, 2005

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2004
2. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2005
3. The Maharashtra Management of Irrigation Systems by Farmers Bill, 2004
4. The Bombay Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2004*
5. The Payment of Wages (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2005*
6. The Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Bill, 2005
7. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
8. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2005
9. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2005
10. The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management Bill, 2005
11. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005
12. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2005
13. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 2005
14. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2005
15. The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2005
16. The Nagpur Improvement Trust, the Maharashtra Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Boards, the Maharashtra Public Libraries, the Mahatma Phule Vastu Sangrahalaya, Poona, the Maharashtra Agricultural Universities (Krishi Vidyapeeths), the Maharashtra Universities and the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2005
17. The Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Bill, 2003
18. The Bombay Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2004*
19. The Maharashtra Irrigation (Amendment) Bill, 2004
20. The City of Nagpur Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2004*
21. The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2005
22. The Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
23. The Bombay Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2005

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* Bills awaiting Assent

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Industrial Disputes (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2003
2. The Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Bill, 2003
3. The Bombay Shops and Establishments (Amendment), 2005
4. The Nagpur City Municipal Corporation Bill, 2004
5. The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2005
6. The Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Bill, 2005
7. The Bombay Village Panchayats and Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2005
8. The Maharashtra Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005
9. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2005
10. The Maharashtra State Council for Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy (Amendment) Bill, 2005
11. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
12. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2005
13. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005
14. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2005
15. The Maharashtra Tenancy and Agricultural Land Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2004
16. The Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2004
17. The Maharashtra Management of Irrigation System by the Farmers Bill, 2004
18. The Bombay Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2004
19 The Payment of Wages (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2004
20. The Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Bill, 2005
21. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2005
22. The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility & Budgetary Management (Amendment) Bill, 2005
23. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2005
24. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 2005
25. The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2005
26. The Nagpur Improvement Trust, Maharasthra Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Boards, Maharashtra Public Libraries, Mahatma Phule Vastu Sangrahalaya, Poona, Maharashtra Agricultural Universities, Maharashtra Universities and Maharashtra Universities of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2005

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
2. The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Meghalaya Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances & Miscellaneous Provision) Bill, 2005
2. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
3. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
4. The Meghalaya (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005
5. The Meghalaya State Commission for Women Commission Bill, 2005
6. The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005
7. The William Carey University Bill, 2005*
8. The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysis of India University (Amendment) Bill, 2005*
9. The Meghalaya State Language Bill, 2004
10. The Contingency Fund of Meghalaya (Amendment) Bill, 2004
11. The Martin Luther Christian University Bill, 2005*

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* Bills awaiting Assent

12. The Meghalaya Transfer of Land (Regulation Amendment) Bill, 2004

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
2. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
3. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2005
4. The Value Added Tax Bill, 2005
5. The Nagaland Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005*
6. The Nagaland Municipality (First Amendment) Bill, 2005*

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Appropriation Bill, 2005
2. The Orissa Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2005
3. The Orissa Town Planning and Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2005*
4. The Ravenshaw University Bill, 2005*
5. The Orissa Labour Welfare Fund Bill, 1996*

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Punjab Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
2. The Punjab Value Added Tax Bill, 2005
3. The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Punjab Electricity (Duty) Bill, 2005
5. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2005
6. The Punjab Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
7. The General Sales Tax (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2005
8. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
9. The Punjab Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2005*
10. The Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Bill, 2005*
11. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Third Amendment) Bill, 2005*
12. The Haryana and Punjab Agricultural Universities (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2005*

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2004*
2. The Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2005*
3. The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Rajasthan Civil Services (Service Matters Appellate Tribunals) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
5. The Rajasthan Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2005
6. The Rajasthan University of Health Sciences Bill, 2005
7. The Rajasthan Self-Financed Private Universities Bill, 2005
8. The Rajasthan Sports (Registration, Recognition and Regulation of Association) Bill, 2005
9. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2005
10. The Rajasthan Appropriation (Vote on Account) (No.2) Bill, 2005
11. The Rajasthan Finance Bill, 2005
12. The Rajasthan Agricultural Produce Market (Amendment) Bill, 2005
13. The Rajasthan Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2005
14. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2005
15. The Rajasthan Agricultural Produce Market (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
16. The Rajasthan Legislative Assembly (Officers and Members Emoluments and Pension) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
17. The Rajasthan Ministers' Salaries (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005

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* Bills awaiting Assent

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura Value Added Tax Bill, 2004
2. The Tripura Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2005
3. The Tripura Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2005

UTTARANCHAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttaranchal Appropriation (Supplementary 2004-2005) Bill, 2005
2. The Uttaranchal (The Uttar Pradesh Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953) Adaptation and Modification Order, 2002 (Amendment) Bill, 2005
3. The Uttaranchal State Commission for Other Backward Classes (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005
4. The Uttaranchal Non-Government Education (Amendment and Repeal) Bill, 2005
5. The Uttaranchal Technical University Bill, 2005
6. The Uttaranchal River Valley (Development and Management) Bill, 2005
7. The Uttaranchal (The Uttar Pradesh Advocate Welfare Fund Act, 1974) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
8. The Uttaranchal (The Uttar Pradesh Electricity Reforms Act, 1999) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2002) Bill, 2005
9. The Uttaranchal Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Bill, 2005
10. The Uttaranchal (The Uttar Pradesh State Universities Act, 1973) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2001) Bill, 2005
11. The Uttaranchal (The Uttar Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1916) (Third Amendment) Bill, 2005
12. The Uttaranchal (The Uttar Pradesh Nagar Nigam Act, 1959) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2002) (Third Amendment) Bill, 2005
13. The Uttaranchal (Emoluments and Pension of The State Assembly Members, Ministers and Officers) (Amendment) Bill, 2005
14. The Uttaranchal Appropriation Bill, 2005
15. The Uttaranchal (Emoluments and Pension of The State Assembly Members, Ministers and Officers) (First Amendment) Bill, 2005
16. The Uttaranchal (The Uttar Pradesh State Universities Act, 1973) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2001) (Third Amendment) Bill, 2005
17. The Doon University Bill, 2005
18. The Uttaranchal Public Library Bill, 2005

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2005

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks

2.	The City of Panaji Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004	24.9.2004	10.1.2005	10.1.2005	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Goa Public Health (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2004	8.11.2004	10.1.2005	10.1.2005	Replaced by Legislation
		HIMACHAL PRADESH			
1.	The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualifications) Amendment Ordinance, 2004	22.1.2005	21.2.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
		JAMMU AND KASHMIR (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL)			
1.	The Jammu and Kashmir Self-reliant Co-operatives (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005	19.1.2005	23.2.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Jammu and Kashmir Electricity (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005	10.1.2005	23.2.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Jammu and Kashmir Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (Amendment)	30.12.2004	4.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation

5.	The Jammu and Kashmir Sales Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004	30.10.2004	4.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
6.	The Jammu and Kashmir Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005	1.2.2005	4.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
7.	The Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004	28.9.2004	16.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
8.	The Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004	28.9.2004	22.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
			MAHARASHTRA		
1.	The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005	9.3.2005	14.3.2005	24.4.2005	Replaced by Legislation
			MEGHALAYA		
1.	The Meghalaya Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances & Miscellaneous) Ordinance, 2005	11.1.2005	11.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Meghalaya State Commission for Women Ordinance, 2005	27.1.2005	11.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
			PUNJAB		
1.	The Indian stamp (Punjab Amendment) Ordinance, 2005	28.2.2005	21.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation

2.	The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005	1.3.2005	28.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Punjab Electricity (Duty) Ordinance, 2005	1.3.2005	21.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2005	3.3.2005	21.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
5.	The Punjab Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005	3.3.2005	21.3.2005	--	Replaced by Legislation
			RAJASTHAN		
1.	The Rajasthan Sports (Registration, Recognition and Regulation of Association) Ordinance, 2004	18.8.2004	3.2.2005	--	--
2	The Rajasthan Self-Financing Private Universities Ordinance, 2004	18.9.2004	3.2.2005	--	--
3.	The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2004	18.9.2004	3.2.2005	--	--
4.	The Rajasthan Universities of Health Sciences Ordinance, 2004	21.9.2004	3.2.2005	--	--
5.	The Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004	10.10.2004	3.2.2005	--	--

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 12 JULY 2005)

States	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	SP	RJD	BSP	DMK	SS	BJD	CPI	NCP	JD (U)	SAD	PMK	JMM	TRS	TDP	MD MK	LJ SP	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	29	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	3	5	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Chhattisgarh	11	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	6	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	9	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	4	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	12	13	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	10	—	2	—	—	—	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	4	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttaranchal	5	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	9	10	—	36	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Nominated	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	146	136	43	38	24	18	16	12	11	9	9	8	8	6	5	5	5	4	4	3

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA

States	JD(S)	RLD	RSP	AITC	AGP	J&K NC	AIM IM	BNP	IF DP	J&K PDP	KC	MNF	ML KSC	NPF	NLP	RPI (A)	SJP (R)	SDF	IND	TOTAL	VACANCIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—
Karnataka	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	19	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	47	1
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	80	—
West Bengal	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Nominated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; IFDP-Indian Federal Democratic Party; INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KPDP- Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC-Kerala Congress; LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SJP(R)-Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); SP-Samajwadi Party; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi.

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 23 JUNE 2005)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	AIA-DMK	SP	TDP	RJD	BSP	BJD	NCP	INLD	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
STATES																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	8	—	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	2	3	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	2[a]	1	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[b]	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[c]	—	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[d]	1	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[e]	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5[f]	2	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[g]	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[h]	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[i]	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[j]	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	3	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[k]	—	18	—
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttaranchal	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	1	8	—	—	12	—	—	6	—	—	—	1[l]	3	31	—
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4[m]	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES																	
29.	The NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Pondicherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8[n]	—	11	1
	TOTAL	245	73	49	14	12	12	9	8	6	5	5	4	35	12	244	1

OTHERS

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) Samata Party-1; and Janata Dal (United)-1
(b) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1
(c) Janata Dal (United)-1
(d) Janata Dal (Secular)-1
(e) Muslim League-2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1
(f) Shiv Sena-3; Republican Party of India-1; and Sadbhavana Party-1
(g) Mizo National Front-1
(h) Nagaland Peoples Front-1
(i) Shiromani Akali Dal-2
(j) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
(k) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-2; and Pattali Makkal Katchi-1
(l) Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress-1
(m) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; Forward Bloc-1; and All India Trinamool Congress-1

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	Cong.(I)	Janata Dal	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.6.2005)	60	34	—	9	—	—	4[a]	13	60	—
Assam L.A. (1.6.2005)	126	71	—	8	—	—	29[b]	18	126	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C. (1.6.2005)	76	5	—	9	2	3	20[c]	23	62[e]	12
Chhattisgarh**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A. (1.6.2005)	70	47	—	20	—	—	2[d]	1	70	—
Goa L.A. (15.6.2005)	40	18	—	17	—	—	4[e]	1	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.6.2005)	182	48	—	130	—	—	2[f]	2	182	—
Haryana L.A. (1.6.2005)	90	63	—	2	—	—	11[g]	10	86[e]	3
Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.6.2005)	68	43	—	18	—	—	1[h]	6	68	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (1.7.2005)	89	20	—	1	2	—	51[i]	13	87	2
Jammu & Kashmir L.C. (1.6.2005)	36	11	—	—	—	1	16[g]	—	28[e]	7
Jharkhand L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Karnataka L.A. (17.5.2005)	225	64	—	79	1	—	67[k]	13	224[e]	—
Karnataka L.C. (1.6.2005)	75	44	—	10	—	—	14[l]	2	70[e]	4
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A. (1.6.2005)	289	68	—	54	3	—	144[m]	19	288	1
Maharashtra L.C. (1.6.2005)	78	21	—	12	—	—	33[n]	12	78	—
Manipur L.A. (31.3.2005)	60	33	—	4	—	5	18[o]	—	60	—
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.6.2005)	60	16	—	7	—	—	33[p]	4	60	—
Orissa L.A. (1.6.2005)	147	38	—	32	1	1	67[q]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A. (1.6.2005)	117	66	—	2	—	—	40[r]	9	117	—
Rajasthan L.A. (21.4.2005)	200	55	—	121	1	—	10[s]	13	200	—
Sikkim L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A. (1.6.2005)	60	13	—	—	38	1	8[t]	—	60	—
Uttaranchal L.A. (1.6.2005)	71	37	—	19	—	—	15[u]	—	71	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY										
Pondicherry L.A. (31.3.2005)	33	18	—	1	—	1	10(v)	2	32@	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Excluding Speaker/Chairman

(a) Arunachal Congress-2; and Nationalist Congress Party-2

(b) Asom Gana Parishad-20; Nationalist Congress Party-3; Autonomous State Demand Committee-2; Samata Party-1; Samajwadi Party-1; and All India Trinamool Congress-2

(c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-14; Janata Dal (Secular)-5; and Samata Party-1

(d) Janata Dal (S)-1; and Nationalist Congress Party-1

(e) United Goans Democratic Party-1; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-1; and Nationalist Congress Party-2

(f) Janata Dal (U)-2

(g) Indian National Lok Dal-9; Nationalist Congress Party-1; and Bahujan Samaj Party-1

(h) Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

(i) National Conference-25; Peoples Democratic Party-17; National Panthers Party-4; Bahujan Samaj Party-1; Awami League-1; Democratic Movement-1; and Nominated-2

(j) National Conference-8; Peoples Democratic Party-7; and National Panthers Party-1

(k) Janata Dal (S)-58; Janata Dal (U)-5; Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha-1; Kannada Naadu Party-1; Republican Party of India-1; and Nominated-1

(l) Janata Dal (S)-11; and Janata Dal (U)-3

(m) Nationalist Congress Party-71; Shiv Sena-63; Jan Surajya Shakti-4; Peasants and Workers Party of India-2; Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh-1; Republican Party of India (A)-1; Swatantra Bharat Paksha-1; and Aakhil Bharatiya Sena-1

(n) Nationalist Congress Party-19; Shiv Sena-12; Peasants and Workers Party of India-1; and Peoples' Republican Party-1

(o) Federal Party of Manipur-13; Manipur People's Party-2; Manipur State Congress Party-2; and Manipur National Congress-1

(p) Nagaland Peoples Front-31; and Janata Dal (U)-2

(q) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4; and Orissa Gana Parishad-2

(r) Shiromani Akali Dal-40

(s) Janata Dal (U)-2; Indian National Lok Dal-4; Bahujan Samaj Party-2; Rajasthan Samajik Nyaya Manch-1; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

(t) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra-6

(u) Bahujan Samaj Party-7; Uttarkhand Party-4; Nominated-1; and Others-3

(v) All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-2; Tamil Maanila Congress-1; and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-7